



ISP FUND Impact Report



October 2023



ISP is a not-for-profit school. We count on the generosity and involvement of our community to provide a first-class educational experience. By supporting ISP, you help make your school truly exceptional.

THANK YOU for making a gift to the ISP Fund in 2022/23!

The power of collective giving is transformational

We are incredibly grateful to the ISP community for their contributions to the ISP Fund each year. All gifts, no matter the amount, enhance the ISP learning experience and allow our students to access first-class resources and facilities so that they can thrive.

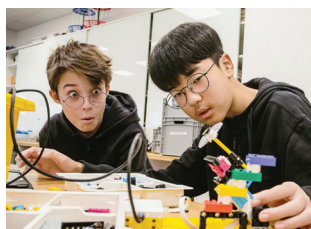
ISP is grateful to our donors who contributed 3.1 million CZK to the ISP Fund in 2022/23. Last year, one in three members of our community made a gift to the ISP Fund. Collectively, these gifts are enriching the unique ISP learning experience with incredible opportunities that tuition alone cannot provide.

We invite you to read this report and celebrate the progress ISP is making through the power of your philanthropy. It is also our hope that you will continue to support the school through your annual giving. Together, our community continues to make a difference at ISP.

As you will read in this report, the ISP Fund supports exceptional new programmes that benefit our students in the years to come in the following areas:



Director's Innovation
Fund



Design, Technology
and Robotics



Elementary School
Outdoor Education



Performing Arts



Changemaker Grants



Student Leadership



Learning Support



ISP Fund Impact Areas

DIRECTOR'S INNOVATION FUND

Our goal is to allocate funds to support emerging and innovative new projects driven by ISP faculty and students.

DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY AND ROBOTICS

Our goal is to spread the real-world tools of robotics, design, interactive technology and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) into the hands of our students at every grade level.

ELEMENTARY OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Our goal is to enhance the existing Elementary Outdoor Education Programme, providing experiences for students to become more connected to the natural world and inspiring them to think deeply about the environment, sustainability and ways they can become changemakers for our planet.

PERFORMING ARTS

Our goal is to complement in-class music-making with the experience of practising, performing and watching live music on stage.

CHANGEMAKER STUDENT GRANTS

Our goal is to support our students with the financial resources to plan and execute project, that will positively impact our local and global community. Interested students will apply for a Changemaker Grant and will be guided by their teachers and mentors to bring their ideas to life.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

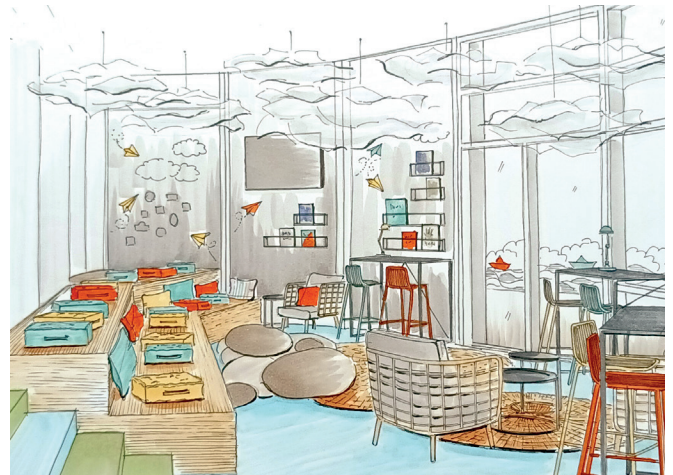
Our goal is to inspire students across the school to strengthen their leadership skills and develop their capacity to actively participate in Student Council (STUCO) by attending specialised trainings and workshops.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Our goal is to strengthen the executive functioning skills of learners, ECF to Grade 12, and offer more teacher and parent training in our Learning Support programmes.

Student Life Centre: For the students, by the students

The Student Life Centre is a vibrant new space on campus, designed for the students by the students! This initiative came from Middle and Upper School students who led the design process, from initial brainstorming and feedback sessions to creating a budget, submitting a proposal, and working with the designers to make creative choices about the space.



Read more here to learn how this vision came to life through the creativity and determination of our remarkable Middle and Upper School students.



Community Impact: The MYP Design Studio

When students enter the new MYP (Middle Years Programme) Design Studio at ISP:

There is a *sense* of **possibility**.

There is a *feeling* of **traction**.

There is a *structure* of **support**.

Ideas and materials are connected.



Creating an opportunity like this for our students requires a shared vision, effective design planning and the support of our community to scaffold its growth.

The ISP Fund facilitated this exciting curricular advancement in the Middle School by supporting the acquisition of necessary tools and manipulatives. Through the generous donations by our parent community, we procured new equipment for the MYP Design Studio.

The MYP Studio will now include professional high-end power tools from Festools, design manipulatives from Copic and Teenage Engineering, as well as an assortment of hand-building and layout tools. These tools and manipulatives help create the right conditions for students to feel secure as they adapt to practice, emerge as pivotal designers and find purpose in their solutions.

Embarking on Design Units of Inquiry in topics like Transformation, Perspective and Movement across Grades 6, 7 and 8, we aim to establish a 3-year design programme that is fluid, flexible and fun. The addition of these tools and materials from the ISP Fund is a significant development for the MYP Design Studio, allowing connections for students across the school and linking the learning concepts from PYP to the CP/DP.

Coding in a new Context

Our community's philanthropic gifts through the ISP Fund have enhanced the experience and programmes for our students, including the purchase and implementation of new cutting-edge tools for our Design, Robotics and Technology Programme.



These tools support students' curiosity and inquiry while building their real-world skills in coding, design, creative arts and more. These skills develop in complexity and interactivity as our students move up in age and readiness.

In Elementary School, students were introduced to the Dobot Robot Arms and were excited to get their hands on the robots and extend their coding skills to a new context. Using a tiny suction cup, the Dobot Robot Arms were programmed using 'Scratch' to pick up and drop small objects like legos. Transferring student understanding of "repeat block codes" in this new context reinforces their knowledge base and prepares them for more complicated coding in the future.

As students progress through Middle and Upper School, our Design, Robotics and Technology Programme progresses in step, offering the tools and equipment to continue challenging and engaging our learners. From Spike Lego Robots to 3D and laser cut printing to creative applications, like programmable and interactive clothing, the possibilities are endless.

In the Upper School, the coding curriculum expands to encompass intricate robotics and the creation of devices capable of performing a diverse range of functions and tasks, like robots that can dance and shoot balls into hoops!

VR Goggles Inspire Inquiry into Ecosystems

Imagine learning about ecosystems around the world by actually investigating the habitat firsthand. Fortunately, [ISP has purchased top-notch VR goggles](#) to make this a reality!

When Grade 4 teachers were planning their “Sharing the Planet” Unit of Inquiry, they took advantage of this incredible technology to design experiential learning opportunities that brought students face-to-face with polar bears in the Arctic, the jungles of Madagascar and many other unique locations around the world.

In each location, students assumed the role of scientists, keenly observing their surroundings. They were encouraged to take note of what they were seeing, what the ecosystem was making them think about and what questions they had after seeing each ecosystem.

These questions now serve as a foundation for their continued learning in this unit of inquiry.



[Read more here.](#)



Grade 3 Students Discover the Power of Composting

One of the focuses of our Outdoor Learning Programme is learning about the 6 R's – [repair](#), [re-use](#), [recycle](#), [rot](#), [reduce](#) and [refuse](#), with the overall "R" being [Rethink](#).

A major part of Rethink is learning how to be more sustainable in our practices at school and at home and making choices that positively impact our environment.



One impactful experience stemming from the Sustainability unit last year was learning about the practical benefits of composting.

Through generous contributions from the ISP Fund, we were able to acquire four Bokashi composters. These were put to excellent use by our Grade 3 students, providing them with hands-on experiences in understanding the significance and methodology behind composting.

Not only do the Bokashi composters work for small amounts of food, but they produce a "tea" that can also be harvested and provide a nutrient-dense liquid for indoor house-plants. The hope is to be able to share and sell the products of the Bokashi composter with the community, and this, in turn, would finance the purchase of the Bokashi Bran.

[Read more here.](#)



Rigamajig: Building Kind Communication in Grade 2

A Rigamajig is a creative building tool with a variety of wooden pieces, plastic bolts, screws and connectors to allow students to build anything they can imagine! Elementary students were delighted to experience this new piece of creative equipment, purchased by the generosity of our community through the ISP Fund.



Grade 2 classes visited the Idea Lab to explore how they can be kind communicators by using the Rigamajig. Grade 2 students love hands-on building and design projects, so the Rigamajig was the perfect way to engage in their interests while developing key communication and collaboration skills.

Students worked in pairs and small groups to come up with ideas for what they could build and were challenged to consider how they could be kind communicators during this process.

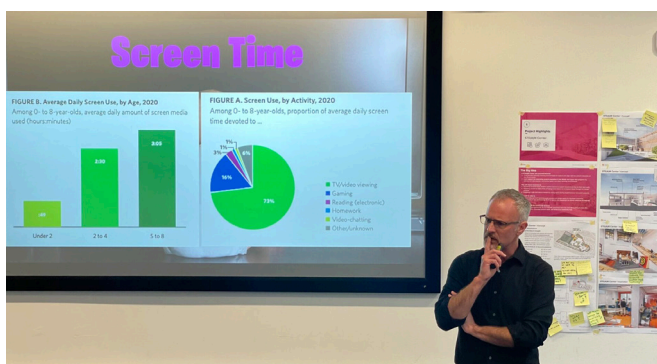
They had to practise voicing their ideas, listening to others' ideas and sharing equipment. They quickly realised that they often needed to adjust their initial ideas to collaborate with others, and that if one group took all the pieces, there wouldn't be enough for everyone else to build!

[Read more here.](#)



Digital Wellness: Empowering the ISP Community to Thrive Online and Offline

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our ISP Fund donors, ISP is able to deliver unique programmes and exceptional resources above and beyond what tuition can fund. One of these initiatives was the visit in April 2023 by technology expert, educator, and digital wellness specialist Patrick Green.



Patrick's extensive knowledge on the topic of technology and education, combined with his warm and humorous approach during the sessions, captivated the entire ISP community and brought lightness and optimism to a topic that can sometimes elicit worry for parents: [Screentime](#).

During his visit, Patrick led several sessions and workshops for parents, teachers and students.

[Read more here.](#)



Transforming Tomorrow's Leaders: Student Leadership

At ISP, fostering student leadership is a pivotal aspect of our mission to cultivate competent changemakers within our student community. Thanks to the generous donations to the ISP Fund, we've established a comprehensive year-long Student Leadership training programme in collaboration with Aaron Moniz, Co-founder of Inspire Citizens.

The aim of this training series goes beyond just this year's participants; it aims to create a self-sustaining initiative that will continue in the years to come.



This extensive training includes creating a mission and vision for student leadership at ISP, along with five targeted workshop sessions. **Participants will receive training in various skill sets tailored for student leaders, along with guidance in applying these skills to their respective clubs and leadership roles.** They will also gather evidence of the impact of their leadership on their groups.

Ultimately, student leaders will compile a portfolio showcasing their growth and skills in action, a valuable asset for university applications. **Finally, students will take charge of envisioning the ISP Student Leadership Programme for the 2024/25 academic year.** They will define their roles in organising workshops, launching the programme and offering support and mentorship to student leaders throughout the school.

The Jazz Dock Orchestra Delights ISP

The ISP music programme engages and inspires students to make music and to understand and appreciate live music. We are grateful for the donations of our community to the ISP Fund, in the area of Performing Arts, which sponsors the annual (and much-anticipated) visit by the Prague-based professional Big Band, the Jazz Dock Orchestra!



We are excited to welcome back the Jazz Dock Orchestra in December as they lead Jazz workshops with our Grade 5 students, and musicians in our Middle and Upper School. Learning from these accomplished musicians is an incredible way to inspire and empower ISP students to fall in love with music.

[Read more here.](#)



Brightening the Future of ISP: Student Changemaker Grants

How do entrepreneurial changemakers go from ideas to solution? How do they identify needs, think of solutions that solve problems, evaluate the impact of these solutions and effectively communicate their innovations? These were some of the challenges our Upper School students addressed in the Entrepreneurial Changemaker elective.



One team of students tackled a practical problem on the ISP field – a lack of lighting that prevented athletes from using the field in the evening. They created a proposal, identifying the specific considerations and steps needed to achieve their goals, including construction materials, neighbourhood zoning, lighting levels and costs. The students pitched their proposal and justifications to the ISP Director, Director of Athletics and Activities and Chief Operating Officer.

“This proposal came in a timely manner as we were aware of this problem. It’s so pleasing and powerful to see these students bring forward their ideas that are going to benefit our entire community directly. [As we expanded the offerings and the number of sports teams, this addition to our sports field is allowing more students to train for longer.](#)” – Director of Athletics and Activities, Anthony Hennelly

Supported by the donations of the ISP Fund through Changemaker Grants, this project has now received approval and is in the process of being implemented.

ISP’s Changemaker Grants bring projects like this to life and empower students to make a difference in their community.

Discoveries in the Garden

One of the main aims of Outdoor Learning in Elementary School is to get students up close to nature, and you can't get much closer than a worm in your hand! Contributions to the ISP Fund help us work towards this goal by providing additional resources such as gardening equipment, observational tools and reference books.



Last year, after studying the plant cycle through the lens of a tomato plant, Ms. Kerry Craig, Elementary School Outdoor Education Teacher, and Grade 3 students formed a Garden Club that meets at lunchtime and runs once every 6-day cycle.

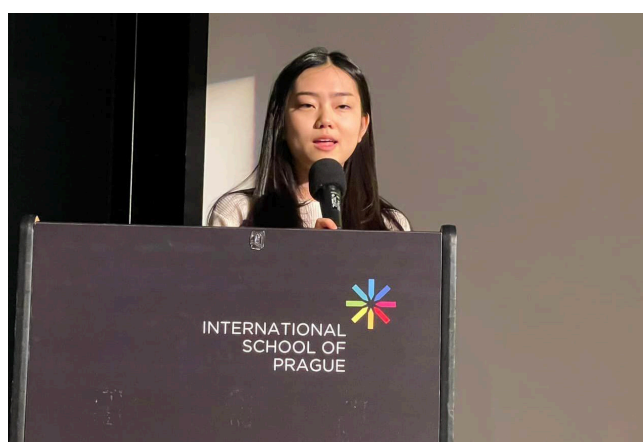
Working in the garden is a favourite student activity, and sparks enthusiasm and curiosity in our young learners. Whether rain or shine, they come to Garden Club ready to get their hands dirty!

In autumn, the club focused on getting the garden ready for winter. This involved a lot of hands-on work to cover the strawberries with mulch, dismantle the tomato plants, and transfer compost from the composter to garden patches. Students found exciting earth treasures such as worms, grubs and other interesting creatures along the way!

These nature explorations connect closely to our curriculum, especially when we are talking about decomposers in the garden (worms, beetles, and grubs in the compost in Grade 3). This work also links closely with what these students will do in their Grade 4 Forest unit (decomposers in the forest). Gardening Club equips students with real-life skills that they can use throughout their lives and also enables them to share skills they have learned from their families with other students (and their outdoor learning teacher!).

Leveling Up: Upper School STUCO Leadership Training

In the last three years, Upper School's STUCO (Student Council) has had significant development, adopting a governance structure to enable student leadership and establishing committees to support the extensive participation from the Upper School student community. In total, 45 students are a part of STUCO, about 12% of the Upper School. With such wide representation, STUCO has accomplished many projects and aims of the organisation, such as creating a handbook, organising events and planning unique school projects.



As STUCO grew in popularity and success over the last few years, faculty club leaders sensed the need to develop student leadership proportionally.

Thanks to ISP Fund donations, the STUCO executive cabinet worked with a leadership consultant to develop their tangible administrative and practical leadership skills. During this dedicated time, students learned how to build a common purpose for STUCO, clarify and communicate expectations, and learned to lead with integrity and care.

Through this training, they developed the skills to work efficiently with ISP teachers and adult leaders in advocating for student voices and views. This will ensure that the student voice remains a prominent focus for the development of programmes and initiatives at ISP.

Learning Support: Leveraging Technology for Literacy

The Learning Support Team at ISP recognises that all students have a unique learning profile and they use a flexible range of developmentally appropriate strategies to meet diverse learning needs.



With the remarkable progress in learning support technology in recent years, we are excited to pilot a programme this year with a small group of Elementary learners.

This programme called Fast For Word, offered through Carnegie Learning, is an evidence-based, adaptive online reading platform designed to enhance literacy, cognitive, social-emotional and executive functioning skills. Fast For Word will complement the existing learning support provided to these students and will be customised to suit each student's schedule and requirements.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we are grateful for the opportunity to pilot this programme with 30 licenses this year.

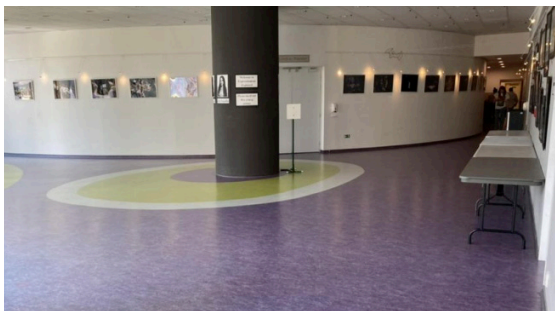
Versatile New Furniture Supports Learning

The recent furniture upgrade at ISP is positively impacting common areas and classrooms across the campus, highlighting how thoughtful, versatile pieces can enhance learning, encourage teamwork and empower students.

Thanks to the generous support from the ISP Fund, we've been able to select and place a variety of adaptable, multi-purpose furniture in every section of the school.

These improvements demonstrate our dedication to create learning environments that inspire creativity, engagement and independent exploration.

Theatre Foyer: Upper & Middle School Social Hub



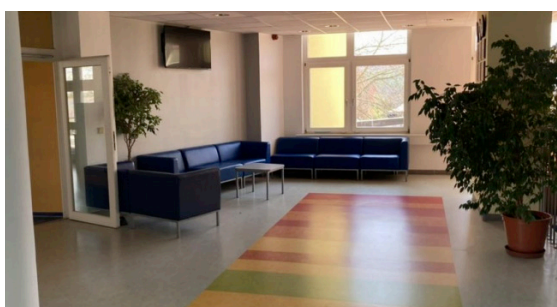
Middle School Agile Classroom



Elementary Learning Suite



Upper School Learning Zone



Visiting Artists: Yale Society of Orpheus and Bacchus

In the spring of 2023, our Middle and Upper School students were treated to a truly memorable performance by the Yale Society of Orpheus and Bacchus, the second longest running a cappella group in the United States.

Not only did the singers delight our community with their talent and sense of humour, but they also shared their experiences as college students and emphasised the importance of continuing to pursue creative interests alongside academic pursuits.

Their insights left a lasting impact on our ISP students, who were inspired by the warmth and accomplishments of these remarkable young scholars.



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR GENEROSITY



ISP FUND

NO GIFT
TOO SMALL

100% FOR
OUR KIDS



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