

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

ISH - PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



“many hands make light work”

ABOUT THE ISH PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Our Mission

Our children's education and development is at the heart of the PTA and its activities. We are dedicated to promoting children's well-being and success through the strong involvement of parents, families, and our Swedish community.

Our mission is to create a better school experience for all ISH students by:

- Conducting fund raising events to be enjoyed by the children and to raise money to assist financing class supplies, school equipment, and activities that our children will benefit from and enjoy
- Nurture a working relationship between parents and teachers
- Provide a platform for discussion by parents of topics and issues concerning our children and ISH
- Foster an atmosphere of unity among the many families who enrol their children at ISH
- To welcome new families and facilitate their children's establishment at ISH
- To provide the means of social and professional networking for ISH parents.

Our Vision

To make ISH a brand name synonymous with high academic achievement and social balance, producing ethical, talented, and successful members of and contributors to Swedish and international institutes of higher education, business communities, and society in general.

Our History

The ISH PTA has been well established in the school for over 16 years, going through different changes as the people and environment has changed. All parents and teachers are automatically members of the ISH PTA.

The ISH PTA has been well maintained and has raised substantial amounts of money over the years, through major fundraising events, for specific projects and items as determined by the parents and teachers together.

Each year, the Spring Fair provides a great day for all to enjoy while raising much needed money to help pay for school excursions and field trips for the children as well as providing Grants that are applied for by teachers and student groups. The PTA also funds library books, materials for use in classes, sporting equipment, equipment for the school, and helps arrange afterschool activities.

OUR PEOPLE

Patron

Mr Oivind Linnerud is the Principal of the International School of Helsingborg and as such is the Patron of the school's Parent Teacher Association.

PTA Board & Key Team Members

Name	Position	Period of Service
Ruth Kerry	Chairperson	Sep-2016 - Current
Jonas Jarekull	Treasurer	Apr-2015 - Current
Jean-Pierre Alouan	Secretary	Dec-2015 - Current
Cyrena Rattray	Vice Chair, Events	Mar-2016 - Current
Sophia Backe	Vice Chair, After School Activities	Apr-2016 - Current
Delia Amalia Aulisio	Vice Chair, Class Parents	Mar-2016 - Current
Brendon Sidebottom	Technical & Website Design	Feb-2010 - Current

Board memberships are limited to terms of two consecutive years, at the forthcoming 2018 AGM, several members will be required to step down to make room for new members to step up and take the credit for the amazing achievements and valuable support that your PTA provides to ISH and the ISH students.

Volunteers

Each year dozens of parents and friends donate their time and energy to assisting the PTA with the organising and running of events to assist the children at ISH. Volunteering may be for a once-off event, for a project's duration, or ongoing.

There are too many to list; however, everybody knows who you are – we see your faces at meetings, at functions, at presentations, Diwali Nights, and at the Spring & Winter Fairs.

A warm "thank you" to you all, without your help, our work to help the children at ISH would be futile.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Why we have a PTA

The ISH PTA is a not-for-profit organization that exists for essentially four reasons:

- a. An interface between the Parents and the Teachers
- b. To facilitate and Support Teaching Staff
- c. Fundraising and assisting with Financing the School
- d. Welcoming and assisting new ISH families

Chairperson's report and Thank You to all

This has been my final allowable term as chairperson, I must step down after 2 years in the position and I will do so at the forthcoming 2018 AGM.

I have enjoyed being chairperson and seeing the PTA grow again, it has regained much of the lost momentum experienced in 2015-6 and I was happy to be a driver of this recovery.

Once again, we have class representatives in just about all classes and other parents who support in covering the classes throughout the academic year.

On the financial front, I am pleased to announce that donations are up this year, and our financial position is the highest it has ever been....ever!

After-School Activities are once again functioning fully for the benefit of all children who attend. After a slow start, the PTA team and its supporters managed to get things underway with Computer Programming, Chess Club, Ice Skating, and other activities that have largely been oversubscribed by the children. We are looking for more ideas for more activities and of course help with running activities.

Regarding programmed events: in 2017 we enjoyed a very successful ISH Spring Fair, an amazingly enjoyable Diwali Evening (many are already looking forward to it again this year), and ISH Winter Fair, and not forgetting the *Trunk or Treat* event in the October that was enjoyed both by the children as well as some young-at-heart parents.

The ISH PTA has continued to provide significant levels of financial assistance to the school. Funding provided by your PTA has helped purchase books for both PYP and MYP Libraries, indoor and outdoor equipment for the children's use during break times, Drama Department supplies and pops, and of course the annual 75Kr per child contribution to assist paying for class excursions, as well as for a variety of grants.

PTA water bottles, bags and clothing merchandise were successful again this year, proving popular and surely valued items of memorabilia in the future once students move back to their countries of origin or to new lands.

As Chairperson I would like to thank the PTA Board, our regular volunteers, and other supporters of the PTA who have helped in the last 2 years, be it by doing jobs or just being a sounding board.

I would also like to thank the ISH school community, be they old and newcomers, I have made some great friends in my role as PTA Chairperson and wish the same happiness and success to the next ISH Parent to step up into this enjoyable position.

Achieving Our Objectives

To quote John Heywood (1497-1580), "*many hands make light work*".

What this means is that large tasks become small when divided among several people.

But it is not hard work that we have to do, and the more parents involved the more fun and the less work.

It is all for the benefit of our children at ISH, to make their education and years at school as best as possible. All parents are invited to the ISH PTA's AGM coming up in February 2018 and to step up to help out, a little here and a little there.

The PTA needs some help to organise events, coordinate with class teachers, and to help make decisions that are important for the school and for our children at the school.

New Board members sought for 2018 as current members must step down after serving the maximum 2 consecutive years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Why the PTA Collects Money

The ISH PTA is a significant financial contributor to the International School of Helsingborg.

Falling under the auspices of the Swedish Government School Scheme, ISH cannot ask for payment from any parent for any school activity...not for the cost of an excursion nor even for the cost of materials for a class project.

Hence the existence and function of the PTA and its fundraising activities throughout the school year.

Each year, your ISH PTA raises many tens of thousands of Swedish Kronor that are directly applied to financing those things that made ISH your choice of school for your children.

The ISH PTA has no significant or ongoing operating costs or overheads, hence very close to 100% of all money raised goes directly to the benefit of our children at ISH.

Overview of Financial Position & Performance

Since 1st July 2017, over 175,000Kr entered the PTA's bank account, including an amount brought forward from the previous period. Funds raised up to 23rd January 2018 have totaled circa 50,000Kr.

The above amount of funds raised does not include money raised at last year's Spring Fair, which totaled over 48,000kr; the 2018 Spring Fair is due in May and the challenge is out to break the previous record of funds raised.

The PTA's bank account balance as of 23rd January 2018 is over 140,000Kr and this does not include a not insubstantial amount of cash, circa 10,000Kr, that is yet to be banked.

It's the highest amount of financial resources accumulated by the PTA in its history and it is all budgeted to be applied for the direct benefit of our children who are enrolled at ISH.

Overview of 2018 Budget

Last period (in April 2017), over 40,000Kr were provided to ISH to assist funding the school's new sound system that has been installed in the Petri building Dining Hall and Gymnasium, as well as towards the fish tank at Petri reception area.

Last period, over 45,000Kr were applied to grants and mini-grants.

The current period's budget includes a total of 65,000Kr for ISH and student expenses that have already been agreed to.

Several grants have already been approved and funded in the current period, including for the purchase of indoor games and equipment for the new MYP campus and so far total 32,500Kr donated by your PTA to date with more to come.

A more detailed outline of the PTA's financial activities and 2018 budget will be presented and discussed as Agenda items in the 2018 ISH PTA's Annual General Meeting to be held 1st February 2018.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

How the PTA Operates

The PTA is a not-for-profit organisation functioning as an unincorporated association. Its "Board" is actually an Executive Committee made up of volunteer parents and friends, who gain the benefit of friendships formed and personal satisfaction that they are doing something *bona fide* (good).

Organisational Structure of the PTA

At the 2016 AGM, the organisational structure of the PTA was streamlined to facilitate flexibility, agility, and potency – the financial results may demonstrate that this has been successful.

At the end of 2017, our bank required us to modernise the PTA's Constitution to satisfy administrative and compliance requirements. The DRAFT of the new Constitution is available on the PTA website for all to review, its adoption will be an Agenda item at the forthcoming 2018 AGM and all members (parents and teachers) will be required to vote on this.

An important feature of the DRAFT Constitution is the requirement of at least 2 ISH parents to fill 2 of the 3 fixed and essential Board positions, with an ISH parent required to be PTA Chairperson. Failure to achieve this will render the PTA Board "dysfunctional" and the Patron and PYP Principal will have the power to dissolve the PTA and close its bank account – this will be a disastrous result for our children and for the future of ISH.

The PTA Board operates informally under a culture of mutual understanding & mutual respect and the fostering of goodwill and team member cooperation: it is blessed in the sense of there being no rivalries / jealousies or jockeying for power.

PTA records and notices, including Minutes of Meetings, are filed on the PTA website for all to see.

HELP YOUR PTA TO HELP OUR CHILDREN AT ISH

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Parent Teacher Association is run by a key number of parents. It is an organisation run by the Parents for all the ISH children...ours and yours, too !!!

Without the assistance of other parents, none of the projects and facilities that you are reading about in these pages would have been possible.

Here are just some ways in which you, as an ISH Parent, can help:

Become a PTA Member

It's a big job, but it's only a couple or three hours a month (to put it in context: if you are a regular church goer, that's 4 hours a month in a month with 4 Sundays!). We are always happy working together and make it fun when we meet, usually at a café or restaurant or even at the school. Those with toddlers bring them and they often play together. We are blessed with the support of several wonderful parents who donate their time as volunteers on special or on-going projects.

If you are an entrepreneurial parent, someone with a twinkle in your eye, socially active and enjoys networking and making new friends, or someone good at organising and delegating, or if you simply have the luxury of not working full-time then we would welcome you to join the PTA Board and make your mark on the school and *enter your name into its history book*.

The PTA's Annual General Meeting is the opportune time to step forward for election on to the Board, otherwise, please contact the PTA Secretary to step up at any time, we warmly welcome you and look forward to working together.

Become a regular PTA Volunteer

Without the gracious help of Volunteers, events such as the Spring Fair could not operate... *who would BBQ the hotdogs, sell cakes at the Bake Table, or make sure the children are safely having fun on the jumping castle ?!!*

Volunteering is ideal for those parents and friends who are unable to commit to a regular timetable of collaboration and meetings with the PTA or to being members of its Board.

To volunteer for a specific event, or to let us know that you are available for when the need arises, please go to the ISH PTA website to register, it takes 30 seconds: www.ishpta.se/volunteer or contact the PTA Secretary.

Make a donation

Donations by parents and friends are the lifeblood of the PTA's fundraising activities. All parents of PTA students are asked to make an annual donation of 300Kr for the first child and 200Kr for every subsequent child enrolled at ISH.

Please make your donation in cash to the school's office or by direct transfer into the PTA's bank account:

Bank Giro Number **5605-0214**

Leave a bequest

Consider remembering the ISH PTA in your Will and bequeathing part of your estate into a principal protected deposit that may provide an annual amount for an academic prize or to help fund a permanent fixture activity. Please have your lawyer contact the PTA Secretary to include the PTA in your Will.

Support an Event or Fundraising Activity

If you would like to contribute a gift, such as a voucher, case of wine, or holiday house for a weekend, as a prizes for silent auction or raffle, please contact the PTA Secretary to have a discussion on how we may promote your business in return.

Become a Corporate Partner

If you are a retail business, a food producer, or a wholesaler and would like to contribute some of your products or services as fundraising event prizes, please contact the PTA Secretary to discuss how we may promote your business in return.

Other ways you can help our School and our Children

If you have a skill or talent, are an expert in a field, or passionate about a subject, such as astronomy or mathematics or photography, then consider establishing an After School Activity or assisting on a roster basis with the Homework Club.

Each day, there are over 60 PYP and MYP students who attend ISH Afterschool Care (aka "fritids"), some for up to 3 hours. That's a lot of time and time that could and should be put to good use for the benefit of the development of our children.

All volunteers must be cleared by a Police background check, interviewed by one of the Principals and deemed to be a safe person of good intention and character.

Please contact the school office or the ISH PTA Afterschool Activities Coordinator to enquire.

2018 AND BEYOND

The Parent Teacher Association is run by a key number of parents who enjoy taking some control and direction of how their children and other ISH students enjoy and benefit from their time at ISH.

The PTA is an organisation run by the parents for the benefit of all the ISH children. The school looks to the PTA for feedback, various forms of support, and financial assistance.

As our Children Grow

As our children grow and progress through the PYP program to the MYP and DP programs and eventually leave ISH, the parents on the PTA Board usually move on to make way for parents of younger children.

It is by the association with the school's teachers that a permanency and continuation of the PTA is possible.

All PTA records, including Minutes of all Meetings and Financial Accounts, are archived for easy reference by future generations of PTA Board Members.

In the future, a new Board and its supporters can decide the *who, what, where, when, why, and how* of running the PTA in accordance with its Mission Statement and Constitution.

Future Projects and Direction

For the immediate future, it is envisaged that the ISH PTA continues with its fund raising activities to finance and support the education of our children.

Without the commitment of parents and friends, the ISH PTA will simply cease to exist and function....it and most of the reasons that we chose ISH for the education and development of our children will disappear into the black hole of history.

Without an active and effective PTA, ISH may well have been just another typical government school offering limited activities outside of the standard curriculum.

Please step up and support your Parent Teacher Association, we look forward to hearing from you:

CONTACT US

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