



OWL NEWS

Until 24 October

IB Evaluation Visit – 15–17 October 2025

Dear DKIS Community,

We are pleased to announce that next week, from **Wednesday 15 October to Friday 17 October**, **Danila Kumar International School** will welcome a team of **International Baccalaureate (IB) evaluators** as part of our regular school evaluation process.

This visit is an exciting opportunity to **celebrate our achievements, reflect on our progress, and look ahead to future growth** as an IB World School offering both the **Primary Years Programme (PYP)** and the **Middle Years Programme (MYP)**.

Throughout their three-day visit, the evaluators will engage with our students, staff, leadership team, parents, and governing board. Their purpose is to gain a holistic understanding of our school's learning culture, teaching practices, and community spirit.

We are honoured to host an experienced team of IB educators who bring diverse international perspectives and a shared passion for lifelong learning. Their insights will help us continue to strengthen the quality of education at DKIS.

To help you get to know our visitors better, we have also uploaded their **biographies** — please take a moment to read about their impressive professional journeys and contributions to the global IB community.

This visit is not just an evaluation; it is a celebration of who we are as learners and educators committed to the IB philosophy of inquiry, reflection, and international-mindedness.

Let's extend a warm DKIS welcome to our guests and show them the enthusiasm, dedication, and kindness that make our school community so special.

Best wishes,

The DKIS Team

IB team

Over Wilson González Álvarez IB Chair MYP Programme Leader		Over was born in Colombia. He lived and worked in the United Kingdom for more than 11 years and took on a range of leadership roles at two schools in the Midlands and South East of England. Then, he moved back to Colombia to work in an international school where he led the French Department. In the same school, he was promoted to MYP Coordinator and later became the Head of the Middle school. Now, he lives in Lisbon and works as an independent IBEN Lead educator as a consultant, site visit programme and evaluation leader, chair for multi-programme visits, workshop leader, field representative, and trains new programme leaders and workshop leaders.
Dr. Christian Hoffmann-Pickenhahn MYP Evaluation Leader		Christian is German and serves as Head of Curriculum and IB continuum Coordinator at Franconian International School, Erlangen, Germany. Originally a Secondary teacher (Philosophy, Literature), he is devoting more and more of his time to Primary School and Early Childhood Education. Christian is a frequent workshop leader and workshop developer, especially for IB Ed and IB leadership workshops for PYP, MYP and DP. He is a senior examiner for German A Language and Literature and Theory of Knowledge. Christian also serves as chair for IB multi-programme, CIS and NEASC visits.
Cindy van den Heuvel PYP Evaluation Leader		Cindy is a South African living off-grid on a farm in Central Portugal. She is currently an IBEN educator and has various roles within the IBEN. Prior to this, Cindy has been principal, head of primary, and PYP Coordinator at different international schools in both the AEM and Asia Pacific regions. Cindy firmly and passionately believes in the IB philosophy and is committed to supporting schools on their IB journey.
PYP Programme Leader		Becky Taylor is originally from the United States and has spent most of her years as an educator in International Schools in Tanzania, the United States and Italy. She currently works at the International School of Monza in Italy in an IB continuum school with the role of Head of Primary and Early Years Music Teacher. She is passionate about the early years and equally so, the continuum of IB education. She has had a wide variety of experiences including classroom and specialist teacher as well as leadership roles. She has been involved in many roles with the IBEN including workshop leader and school visits. Being an IB parent through PYP, MYP and DP has given Becky an added perspective on the richness of the IB programmes and the impact they have on our learners, even after they have graduated and moved on to the world of university and work.

AUTUMN BREAK

Dear DKIS Community,

As we approach the autumn break from 27 October to 2 November, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our students and families. This is a wonderful time to pause, recharge, and enjoy the beauty of the season.

Whether you are setting off on an adventure, spending quality time with loved ones, or simply taking a well-deserved rest at home, we hope your days are filled with laughter, warmth, and colourful autumn moments.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead!

Wishing you a joyful and relaxing autumn break,

Best wishes,

DKIS team



WELCOME OUR NEW COWORKERS

Miha Marek

Hello, my name is Miha Marek and I was born in Ljubljana. At University I graduated in Philosophy, French and Biology. In my professional life I have worked as a literary translator, editor and researcher, specializing in French philosophy of the early modern period. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my dog and reading and writing poetry. At DKIS, I am going to teach MYP French and MYP EAL. Within the DKIS community I look forward to working with pupils with diverse interests and needs in order to help them gain proficiency in English and a solid grasp of French.



Anja Jakša

My name is Anja Jakša, and I have a Master's degree in Social Pedagogy. I work as a school counsellor, where I support students in different areas of their academic, emotional, and social development. I believe it's important to create a space where every student feels understood, accepted, and encouraged to grow in their own way. Building relationships based on empathy, trust, and honest communication is at the heart of my work and something I truly value.

In my free time, I enjoy cooking, crocheting, and spending time outdoors. These simple, creative hobbies help me relax, recharge, and bring fresh energy into my everyday life.

I really appreciate the friendly and open atmosphere at DKIS. It's inspiring to be part of such a diverse and supportive community where learning goes both ways - between students and teachers alike. I'm looking forward to growing together, sharing ideas, and contributing to the positive spirit of our school.



THE PTA- WHO ARE WE

Dear DKIS community, let us introduce ourselves!

DKIS PTA is a dedicated group of parents and teachers who work together to enhance educational experience for every student at Danila Kumar International School. Our mission is to promote collaboration, engagement, and support to ensure the best possible educational journey for all our students.

Every school year new members from each class are elected.

Meet our 2025/ 2026 PTA team:

- **KG** Mrs Victoria Zhdanova
- **1M** Mrs Nina Kokalj
- **2M** Mrs Iris Potež – **PTA Secretary and PTA Vice Chair**
- **3M** Mrs Tanja Tušar
- **4M** Mrs Maša Rugel
- **5M** Mrs Petra Zalar
- **6M** Mrs Yulia Nechaeva- **PTA Treasurer**
- **7M** Mrs Bhasin Seenal Saket- **PTA Deputy Secretary**
- **8M** Mr Iliya Petkov Nikolov
- **8I** Mrs Olga Dubnova
- **Miša Lake PTA Chair**

WHAT WE DO:

SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS: We provide support, information and resources to our amazing teachers to help them excel in their vital roles

FOSTER COMMUNITY: We organize events and activities that bring families and the school community together, fostering strong relationships

ENRICH LEARNING: We fundraise for educational programs to enrich the learning experience

ADVOCATE: We advocate for our students and our school to ensure they have the resources and support they need to thrive.

We encourage all PTA members, parents and students to get involved in any way that suits their schedule and interests. We support class PTA representatives who will keep parents, teachers and students informed about all important matters we discuss at our PTA meetings, volunteer for events and help where they can. Everyone's participation, big or small, makes a meaningful impact.

WHAT WILL WE DO THIS MONTH/ UPCOMING EVENTS:

LJUBLJANA MARATHON SCHOOLS RUN 2025

The PTA will purchase T- shirts for all 24 DKIS students that have successfully applied for the Schools Run. Please come and support our students at this fun event that celebrates sport and healthy lifestyle. Our students will run in bright yellow T- shirts with schools' logo on the back!

DKIS HALLOWEEN PARTY by THE PTA 2025



Join us at our scariest party of the year! Parents and students, your whole family is kindly invited to dress up, have fun and enjoy our many tricks and treats we are preparing for you:

- Halloween games
- Best costume competition
- SLIME LAB
- Talent show * Parents, please contact your class PTA representative for applications

- **Pumpkin carving**
- **Face painting**
- **HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE**

Thank you for supporting the PTA! With your help, we can do better. As always, all profits from the events we are organizing will enable us to support our students and keep our vibrant school community active.

Mrs Miša Lake PTA Chair with all from our PTA team

CALENDAR OF YEARLY PTA EVENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY – October 23rd

WINTER BAZAAR – December 18th

NIGHT SLEDGING- Depending on snow conditions

EASTER BAZAAR – April 2nd 2026

INTERNATIONAL DAY- June 2026

Individual Meetings

Dear DKIS community,

This month, Individual meetings are scheduled for **Thursday 23 October, from 16:00 to 17:30**. To sign up, please provide your name and surname along with your child's name, using the following link: [INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS](#)

The sign-up list will be available until 12:00 on Wednesday 22 October. We kindly request that you adhere to your chosen time slots. If you are unable to secure a slot between 16:00 and 17:30, we encourage you to take advantage of our teachers' weekly meetings. Our teachers are available for one lesson per week, every week. You can find information about individual teacher time slots here: [TEACHERS](#)

Best wishes,

Klemen Strmljan

Head of International Department



Kindergarten Sports Day – Scavenger Hunt In Tivoli Park

The Kindergarten students will participate in a scavenger hunt on **Tuesday 14 October**. They should arrive at school by 08:30, so they have time to eat breakfast before we leave.

The students will need a small backpack for snack (which they will get in school) and a bottle of water. From school to Tivoli we will travel by public bus.

The scavenger hunt for students will be held in Tivoli, where they will have an opportunity to explore seasonal items and enjoy some time in the playground. We will be back to school by 12:30.

KG team



2M Cultural Day – Social Games

On **Monday 13 October**, 2M will have cultural day. The activities will start at 08:20 and will finish at 11:50.

The students will explore various social games and collaborative activities, practice their ATL skills and recognize and apply IB PYP Learner profiles.

All activities will take place within the school and are designed to promote teamwork, reflection, and understanding.

The RAP programme will continue as scheduled.

Ms Teja Klavs

4M Science Day – Ecosystems

The students from 4M will visit the Tropical House in Celje on **Wednesday 22 October**.

The students will learn about plants and animals and their role within an ecosystem, how living things are interdependent, and how prey and predators differ (physical characteristics and adaptations to their environments, their dependence on each other - healthy populations, the movement of substances in nature, birth, life, and death (number of offspring, stable ecosystems).

The students should be at school by 08:10. We will return between 12:00 and 12:30.

They must bring a small backpack and a water bottle. Snacks are provided at school.

We are looking forward to seeing many exotic animals and plants.

Ms Anja Plut



5M Science Day – The Solar System

On **Wednesday 22 October** 2025, the 5M students will participate in a workshop about the Solar System – through mathematics – which will take place in school. The students should

come to school as normal, and the Science Day will conclude at 11:50. The afternoon programme will take place at the usual time.

Ms Tina Füst

MYP 3 Community Project – Technical Day

I am excited to announce that **MYP 3 will have a Collapsed Day dedicated to the Community Project!**



Date: 23 October



Time: Full school day (5 lessons)



Location: In school

During this day, students will focus entirely on the **planning stage** of their Community Project. This is an important milestone where they will:



Explore and refine their project ideas.



Continue documenting their process in their project journals.



Plan their action steps and resources.



Prepare all necessary steps to be quipped to start their ACTION.

The Community Project is a chance for students to:

- Develop their independence and initiative.
- Connect with real-world issues and their community.
- Collaborate, reflect, and take meaningful action.

I look forward to seeing creativity, curiosity, and commitment come to life as students shape their projects. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about their progress and support them in small but meaningful ways.

Ms Mateja Kores, Community Project Coordinator

Upcoming Workshop – Bullying & Inclusion

On **Monday 20 October**, during the **homeroom lessons**, the 6M and 7M students will take part in an engaging workshop led by **Sean McCaw** on **Bullying and Inclusion**. Through storytelling, interactive activities, and open discussions, the students will learn what bullying

really is (and what it isn't), explore different forms of it, such as cyberbullying, and reflect on how empathy and inclusion can strengthen their classroom communities. The session aims to inspire students to take small, meaningful steps towards creating a kinder and more inclusive environment for everyone.

Best wishes,

Klemen Strmljan

Head of International Department



100 Active Days

This year, 100 Active Days is growing into something even bigger! The students will be focusing on healthy habits all year long. The goal is to think about our whole well-being – not just moving our bodies, but also caring for our minds, eating well, and getting enough sleep and rest.

Each student will have a chart to keep track of their choices in these four areas. At the end of each section, parents should sign to show they have been **honest** and **principled** about what they really did.

By practicing healthy habits every day, the students are learning how small steps – like going for a walk, eating a healthy snack, taking a brain break, or getting a good night's sleep – can make a big difference in how they feel and help them stay balanced.

Mr Denis Divjak

29 LJUBLJANA MARATHON

1. PLACE AND TIME OF THE EVENT

In the city centre of Ljubljana **on Saturday 18 October 2025, at 11:35 for PYP students and 12:45 for MYP students. The Vita Kids run for pre-schoolers starts at 10:00.**

The start will be on Slovenska cesta and the finish on Kongresni trg.

2. LENGTH OF ROUTE

Vita Kids run for KG: 200m. – Parents need to register the student by themselves by 9 October 2025, on the link: [VITA Kids run | NLB Ljubljana marathon](#)

Promotional run for 1st and 2nd grades: 500 m.

Promotional run for 3rd to 5th grades: 1000 m.

Run for Students from grades 6 to 9: 1500m.

3. START SCHEDULE

- **Vita Kids run for KG at 10:00.**
- Promotional run for grade 1 boys at 11:35.
- **Promotional run for grade 1 girls at 11:40.**
- Promotional run for grade 2 boys at 11:45.
- **Promotional run for grade 2 girls at 11:50.**
- Promotional run for grade 3 boys at 12:10.
- **Promotional run for grade 3 girls at 12:15.**
- Promotional run for grade 4 boys at 12:20.
- **Promotional run for grade 4 girls at 12:25.**
- Promotional run for grade 5 boys at 12:30.
- **Promotional run for grade 5 girls at 12:35.**
- Run for grade 6 boys (2014) at 13:00.
- **Run for grade 6 girls (2014) at 13:10.**
- Run for grade 7 boys (2013) at 13:20.

- Run for grade 7 girls (2013) at 13:30.
- Run for grade 8 boys (2012) at 13:40.
- Run for grade 8 girls (2012) at 13:50.
- Run for grade 9 boys (2011) at 14:00.
- Run for grade 9 girls (2011) at 14:10.

Participants must report to the start area 15 minutes before the start of the race!

Students from grades 1 - 5 will be wearing school shirts!

4. THE MARATHON COURSE

The registered students from 1st to 9th grades will receive their T-shirts with their race numbers at school. For the absent students, numbers will be collected on the day of the event from the teachers, who will be at the entrance of Maximarket: **for students from grades 1 to 5 at 11:00** and **for students from grades 6 to 9 at 12:15**.

Parents should drop their children off at the start (on Slovenska cesta) **at the appointed time and pick them up at the finish line from the teachers** (the pick-up zone will be located at the exit on Kongresni square, next to the anchor monument – check the map below).

The students run alone, unaccompanied by teachers. Parents are responsible for their children at the event.

Below you can see the plan of the finish area at Kongresni Square. The students will be collected at the end of the exit (number 24) where teachers will be waiting. The area will be marked with the sign: "OSNOVNA ŠOLA DANILE KUMAR" and a flag.



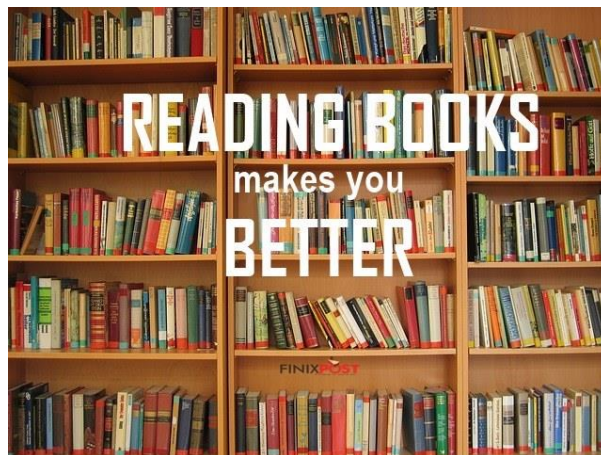
Reading Badge for Parents

Dear Parents,

We are once again inviting all parents and family members to participate in our Reading Badge for parents and employees at Danila Kumar International School.

The reading badge will run throughout the school year and conclude on 29 May 2026. You can participate by reading at least 5 books, writing your opinion about them in the attached form, and sending it to the school library e-mail, knjiznica@os-danilekumar.si or freliht@os-danilekumar.si. The books can be anything you like, adult fiction, youth fiction, as well as non-fiction, in any language. With your permission, we will publish your book reviews in a special collection published on the school website, where you will be able to see recommendations for your next reading. By taking part in this project, you will be a wonderful example to your children. Through youth literature, you will be able to peek into their world, talk about what you have read, and share your opinions with them.

Ms Tina Freljih



READING BADGE FOR PARENTS AND EMPLOYEES AT DANILA KUMAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First name and surname:

I give permission for my opinion about the books (without personal information) to be published in the collection on the school website. **YES / NO** (circle)

CURRICULUM SECTION

In case you have more questions about our programmes, please scan the QR code and we will be happy to answer them.



CALENDAR IN BRIEF

13.	MON	2 M CULTURAL DAY	
14.	TUE	KG SPORTS DAY	
15.	WED	EVALUATION VISIT	
16.	THUR	EVALUATION VISIT	
17.	FRI	EVALUATION VISIT	
18.	SAT	LJUBLJANA MARATHON	
19.	SUN		
20.	MON	6 M & 7 M WORKSHOP	
21.	TUE		
22.	WED	4 M SCIENCE DAY 5 M SCIENCE DAY	
23.	THUR	MYP 3 TECHNICAL DAY INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS	HALLOWEEN PARTY
24.	FRI		
25.	SAT		
26.	SUN		

27.	MON	AUTUMN BREAK
28.	TUE	AUTUMN BREAK
29.	WED	AUTUMN BREAK
30.	THUR	AUTUMN BREAK
31.	FRI	AUTUMN BREAK
1.	SAT	
2.	SUN	