

STATE OF SCHOOL

2024



2004-2024



**CHRISTIAN
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL OF
PRAGUE**

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

**ONE GENERATION SHALL COMMEND YOUR WORKS TO
ANOTHER, AND SHALL DECLARE YOUR MIGHTY ACTS.**

PSALM 145:4 (NIV)

Dear Friends,

The Christian International School of Prague (CISP) is God's school. He is the One who has held the school together for over 20 years. We have seen countless examples of His faithfulness and provision to the students, their families, teachers, and staff in the past and present. We look with hopeful expectation to how He will continue to work in the future.

I recently received kind notes from the elementary school students about what they like about CISP. Their comments reflect a vibrant, nurturing school environment fostering academic and personal growth. The students say our school is "full of joy," with "kind people" and a strong sense of community where they feel safe and free to be themselves. They appreciate learning about Jesus and the Bible and worshipping God, which is the essential Christian foundation of our school. They especially enjoy library time, chapel, snack time, field trips, and fun activities and events. Students also cherish their friendships, the supportive presence of great teachers and staff, and the various opportunities to explore their interests. They view CISP as their "village," where they truly belong.



I am grateful that the lives of people from many different nations intersect at the Christian International School of Prague. It is a joy and privilege to invest in the next generation and share the message of life in Christ and eternal life.

For Him,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jodi Oppenhuizen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**JODI L. OPPENHUIZEN, PH.D.
DIRECTOR**

A student is kneeling on a large sheet of white paper, drawing a village scene. The paper has the text "This is Our Village" written on it in a large, stylized font. The student is using a white marker to draw a house with a rainbow on top. There are several other drawings of people and houses scattered around the text. The student is wearing a dark green hoodie and black pants. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

This is
Our Village

CISP IDENTITY

VISION

Students who are followers of Jesus among the nations expressing their faith by thinking biblically, and loving and serving their communities for Him.

MISSION

CISP provides, from a biblical perspective, an academically excellent and practically oriented education within a loving community.

CORE VALUES

- Faith in Christ
- Walking in Truth
- Grace in Community
- Biblical in Worldview
- Learning for a Lifetime



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

The 2023-24 school year marked CISP's 20th anniversary! The year was celebrated with a special logo, a school-wide talent show, and a celebratory 20th anniversary concert. CISP opened doors on September 8, 2004 with 10 American missionary students in a kindergarten/1st grade and classes for 6th to 9th graders. By the end of the first year, we grew to 18 students. Now, in 2024, we have grades 1-12 made up of nearly 160 students from 30 different countries!



CISP TRADITIONS

READING DAY

Each year in the fall, CISP takes a day to celebrate reading and all things books! The day is spent reading, being read to, writing, and storytelling. Students and teachers are also encouraged to come wearing a book character costume!



WINTER BANQUET

CISP hosts a dance each year for the secondary students. This is the second year the dance has been hosted at Kulturní dům Barikádníků. Students ate dinner together and danced the night away!



CONCERTS

Each semester, the elementary and secondary hold concerts. The elementary concerts included ballet and cheer performances as well as music. In the spring, The CISP Choral Society put on the 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert! The choir was joined by many local musicians and soloists for a grand evening of music and celebration.





DRAMA

Drama is back at CISP with new director, Casey Tuminello! In the spring, the CISP Knight Lights presented *New Clothes for the Emperor* by Cynthia Mercati, a fun take on a classic tale where we find out if clothes really do make the man. In the fall, nearly 30 students were involved in *Tiny Tim's Christmas* by Thomas Hischak. This play follows the life of Timothy Crachit, beloved character in Charles Dickens' tale, who has become a Scrooge himself in his adult life. Having theatre again is a joy for the CISP students and community!



SPRING TRIPS & ACTIVITIES



**12 GRADE
CROATIA**

- * The senior class enjoyed a trip to the seaside city of Zadar, Croatia. While there, they explored the city, visited the nearby waterfalls at Krka National Park, and enjoyed a boat tour and swimming in the sea.



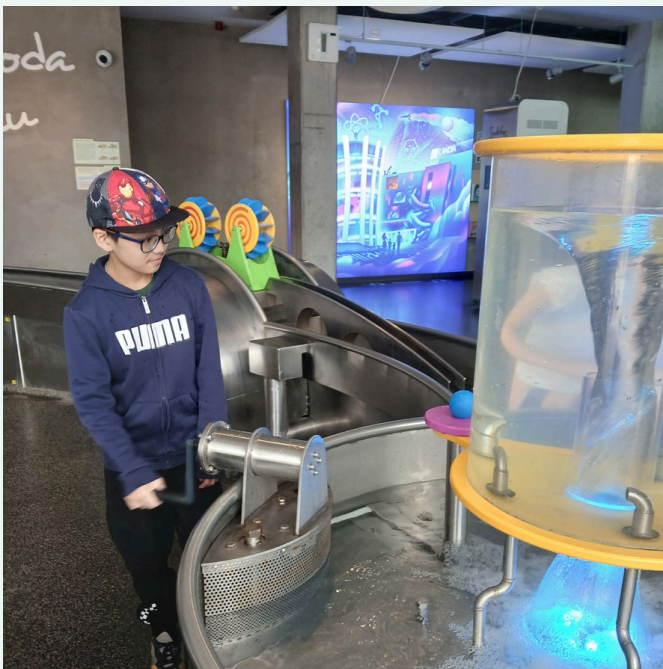
**9-11 GRADE
NORMANDY**

- * The other high school students made the long bus journey to Normandy, France. There, they walked in the footsteps of WWII history along the D-Day beaches, explored the island village of Mont-St-Michel, and spent an afternoon exploring Paris.



6-8 GRADE SCHOOL IN NATURE

* A CISP tradition is the middle school *School In Nature* (*Škola v přírodě*) trip. While this year was a little rainy, students still enjoyed plenty of hiking, nature, and even learning to cook their own dinner over a fire. This year, students also tried rock climbing and a high ropes course!



1-5 GRADE ELEMENTARY ACTIVITY DAYS



* Elementary students spent four days traveling to a jump park, a science center, and Mirakulum at the end of the semester!



THIS IS OUR VILLAGE

We are truly a village with the opportunity for all grades and ages to interact. We want students to immediately feel welcome and that they belong in our village. Having the Secondary Retreat and Elementary Day in the Woods gives us that opportunity to communicate right away what kind of village we are. Returning and new students get to spend extra time to reconnect and make new friendships. We want students to come away with the understanding that they are loved, that they have a part to play in caring and protecting our village, and that we can have lots of fun together across all ages.

For the 2024-25 year we are focusing on what it means to serve others. The first semester was spent in John 13:1-17 and looking at the details of these incredible moments when Jesus washed His disciples' feet. We talked about the significance of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, and why feet were so often a topic in the cultures of the day (Greek, Roman, and Jewish). A host would only wash their guests' feet personally if they wanted to welcome people as honored guests, and express deep friendship. We are learning what it means to be a village that has the love of God as our foundation.



Our vision is to foster the kind of faith that is active in all areas of students' lives — that they would know Jesus not just through information, but also through a close relationship with Him. That they would experience God's love and kindness and then share it with people wherever they are.



JERRY LILLARD
CISP CHAPLAIN

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**JESSICA
PISANO**
CLASS OF 2014

WHAT DID YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT CISP? ANY FOND MEMORIES TO SHARE?

I loved the sense of community and belonging most of all, I think. It is a gift to get to connect with other people who are also living in a weird world in-between two cultures so you don't feel like such a weirdo. And teachers who cared for me really well, saw potential in me and gave me opportunities to grow. I remember when Kate & Garrett Parker told the school they were dating, haha (or getting married? It's a little fuzzy). I also remember Paní Miláčková making us do push-ups for wrong answers in German class. Our class trips around Europe every year were always so fun and memorable. I loved Honor Choir trips, and Student Leadership Conference.

Jessica attended CISP for 6 years and graduated from CISP in 2014. She has been a music teacher in public schools in the US for 6 years and just recently moved with her husband to work with Evangelical churches in Spain.

HOW DO YOU FEEL CISP PREPARED YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING NOW?

There are so many things about my adult life that I can trace back to influences from CISP. My teachers who who taught me to think deeply & critically about what I believe...taught me to love languages and are still in my head now as I'm learning Spanish and Catalan for the first time...taught me leadership skills & gave me opportunities to use my voice. And those are just the subjects that relate to my work directly right now.

I received a very thoughtful, caring, and well-rounded education that has served me well in university and in life as an adult.



CLASS OF 2024

Though it was CISP's 20th year, the class of 2024 is only our 17th graduating class. 10 students walked across the stage in June and are now studying, working and living around the world!



POTRAIT OF A CISP GRADUATE

- Christlike
- Servant-hearted
- Compassionate
- Inquisitive
- Disciplined
- Respectful
- Creative
- Graceful

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



**CAROLYN
TURNAU**
SECONDARY BIBLE TEACHER

Carolyn Turnau is CISP's longest-serving staff member. She is the head of the Secondary Bible Department and has been at CISP since its founding in 2004. She is also the mother of three CISP graduates.

The Bible tells a story that I am a part of, a story that doesn't end. There is always more to see as I read it, study it, teach it, learn from my students, and read it again. I think I have the best job in the school.

HOW HAS CISP GROWN OVER THE YEARS?

We continue to grow and build on our founding documents. Our mission, vision, and core values remain the same. Our teachers are still committed to following Jesus and many are support-raising missionaries. CISP continues to be a community of grace.

When CISP began, we had 6 full-time students and 4 part-time students – all of them American missionary kids. CISP has truly become an international school; this year my students come from 15 countries. I have the privilege and challenge of teaching Bible classes with been-there-done-that students from extremely active Christian families and students from many other faith (and non-faith) backgrounds who are reading the Bible for the first time.

WHAT HAVE BEEN SOME CHALLENGES?

One challenge of working with students is that they eventually leave. They keep growing and learning, they move on and they move away. Sometimes you don't get to say goodbye. Sometimes you don't hear from them again; you have to trust that God "who began a good work in [them] will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT TEACHING AT CISP?

I love teaching, I love the Bible, I love Jesus. I love being in the class with students for three years, watching them learn and grow, and seeing the lightbulbs come on in the "Aha" moments. I love the rabbit trails and deep questions. I deeply appreciate the family atmosphere at CISP, both with students and coworkers. I am at home in the classroom and the staff room. This is my village.

CISP BY THE NUMBERS

Full-Time Students

160 STUDENTS

Part-Time Students

4 STUDENTS

Student Nationalities

30 COUNTRIES

Average Grade Size

13 STUDENTS

Missionary Students

27.5%

Czech Students

11.3%

Third-Culture Students

61.2%

Elementary Students

58 STUDENTS

Middle School Students

44 STUDENTS

High School Students

58 STUDENTS

Full-Time Staff

30 STAFF

Part-Time Staff

26 STAFF

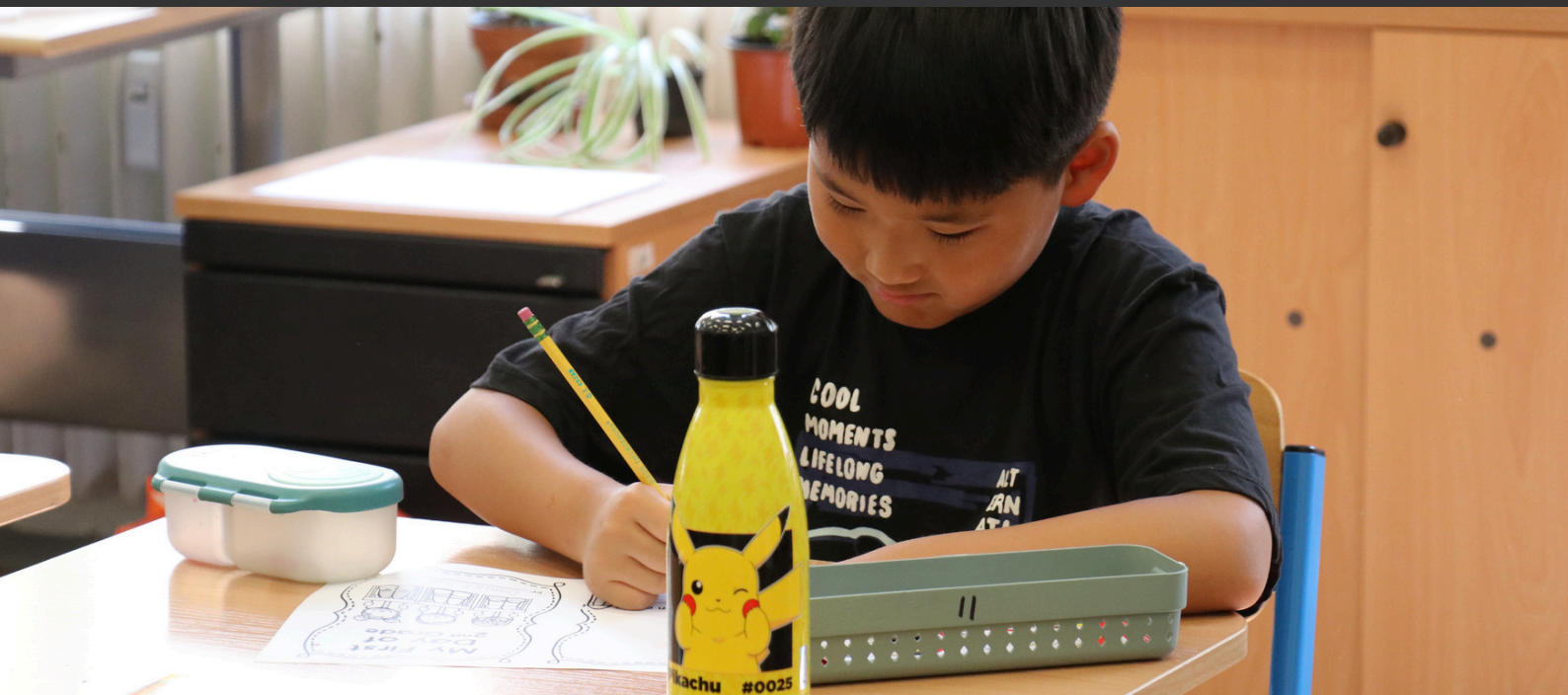
Staff Nationalities

8 COUNTRIES

CURRICULUM UPDATE

MAP TESTING

MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) is a test given twice a year to our students in grade 3 through grade 12; once in the fall and again in the spring. We use this test to measure academic progress in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. We are excited that our students consistently perform at or above the levels of their peers in both the US and in international schools, with over 70% of our students scoring above average in all subject areas. For more information regarding MAP or other standardized testing, please contact our testing coordinator.



AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

We have continued our partnership with Center for Talented Minds during the 2024-2025 school year. In May of 2024, we had five students take a total of seven Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Of those, 60%, or three students, scored a 3+ on their exams! In the 2024-2025 school year, we are offering three AP classes, and we look forward to continuing to develop our AP program.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In 2024, **70 generous individuals and families** partnered with CISP to raise \$36,479 (USD). We are thrilled to complete the renovation of our science lab and update our school library with over 300 new books! Thanks to additional gifts from US donors, we are also able to purchase new worship equipment for our spiritual life team and offset increasing winter expenses. We are immensely grateful to God and our donors for enhancing the CISP experience for our students.



Total Raised in 2024

\$36,479



From CISP Community

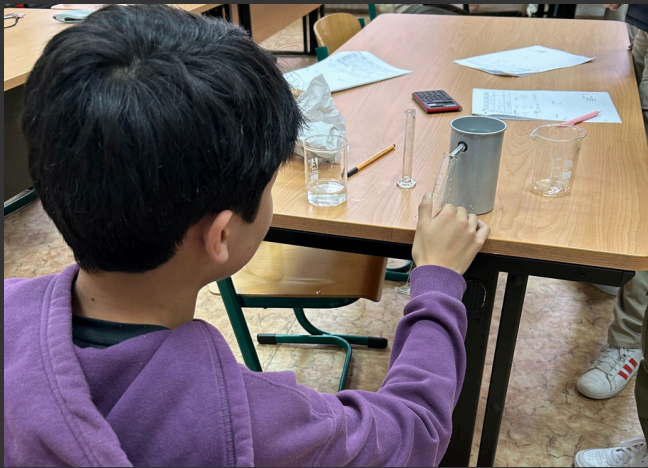
34%



From European &
North American Donors

66%

Investing in Excellence



SCIENCE EQUIPMENT

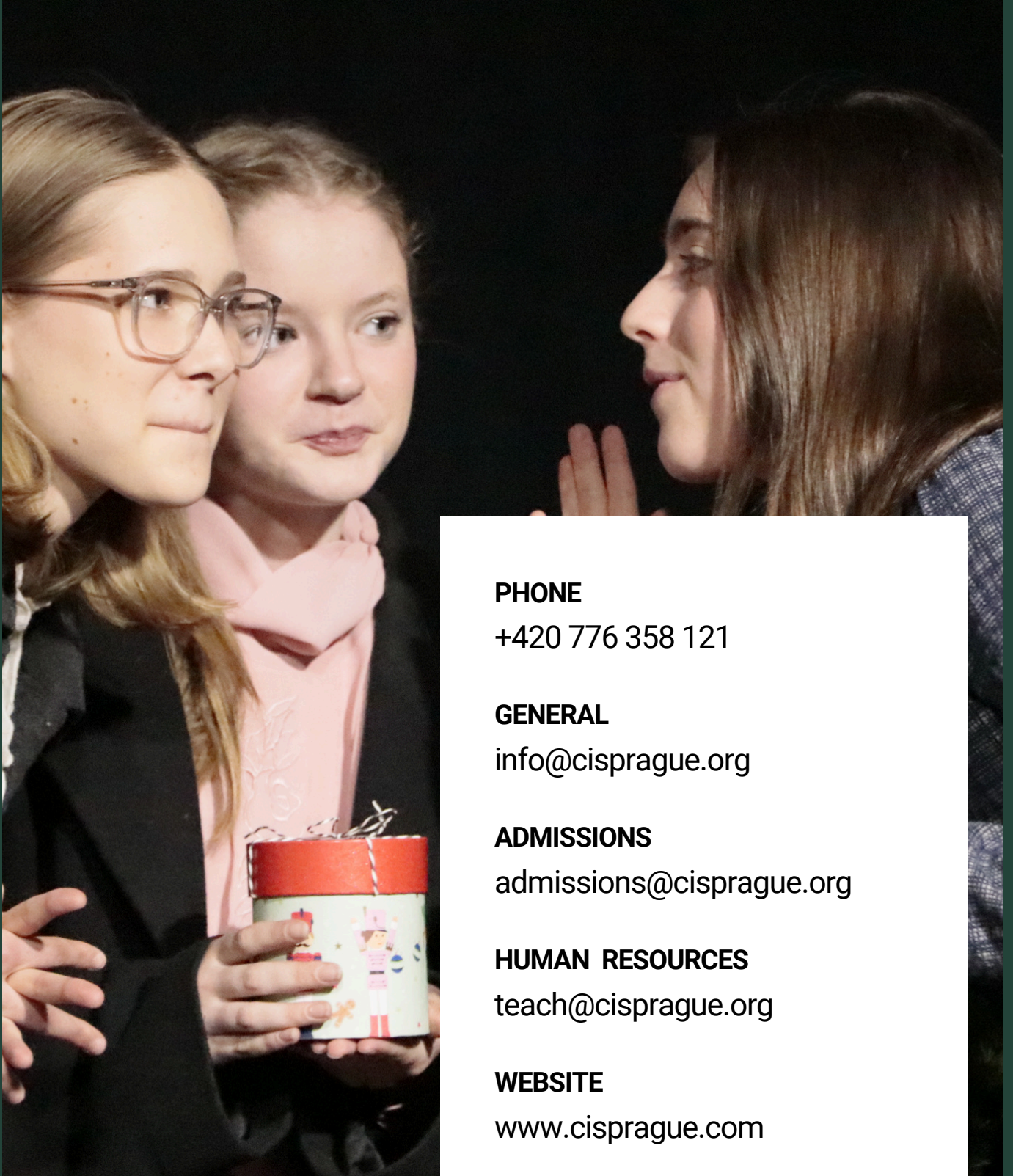
We are excited for our students to have more opportunities to learn about God through science. This renovation features items like balance scales, thermal protection plates, and other crucial equipment for experiments. They have already been put to good use!

NEW BOOKS

Reading is an essential part of learning at CISP! This year, our students will have the opportunity to read hundreds of new books. We are thrilled to see how these new books will enhance learning about God's world.



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