

# The Bear Essentials

## Principal's Monthly Bulletin

November 2002

### ***Yes, we have an attitude at the Auberge . . . and we're proud of it!***

The first IBO standard for an authorized PYP school requires us to be committed to developing in our students the qualities, attitudes and characteristics as described in the PYP student profile which is included in the curriculum guides you received at Orientation in September. The end of October is, therefore, a time for assessment and reflection throughout our school.

During the first seven weeks of school, in addition to guided instruction in the core subjects, your children have been encouraged to exhibit a positive attitude to learning and to become familiar with our school rules and expectations. This past week was a time for them to reflect on how well they are doing and how well they are accepting responsibility for their own learning. Teachers, too, have reflected and reported on their student's progress and I was impressed by the number of positive comments I read in the mid quarter reports. Of course, I also see the everyday evidence of social, emotional and academic growth in our community as I visit classrooms and work on planning with teachers.

To compliment the work we do on personal and social growth, we have designated "attitude weeks" across the grades this year to focus on what good examples of attitudes (respect, empathy, cooperation, etc.) look like. When "creativity" was being discussed in one room this week, a student remarked that it didn't sound such an important word as "respect" or "responsibility." But after working with the description, ("being creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problems and dilemmas,") the same kindergartner concluded, "Well, it must be just as serious or I guess you wouldn't have put the word up!" This type of reflection at such an early age lays the foundations for responsible, informed decision making in later years.

We plan to include an attitude report in the end of year reports in June 2003, so I have included the common set of descriptors we are using at school. This will ensure a greater degree of understanding by all of us, here at school and at home, as you support the work we do. As educators we are very conscious of the importance of role modeling appropriate attitudes for our students, but we must never forget that parents are a children's first - and most influential - role models.

The article from our Resource Team this month is from the American National Institute for Child Health and Human Development and discusses how parents' role modeling provides consistent, positive examples for their children. We will send part two of this helpful article in the December bulletin.

### **The ABC's of Attitude: (collaborative work from other PYP schools)**

**Appreciation:** appreciating the wonder and beauty of the world and its people.

**Commitment:** being committed to their learning, persevering and showing self-discipline and responsibility

**Confidence:** feeling confident in their ability as learners, having the courage to take risks, applying what they have learned and making appropriate decisions and choices

**Cooperation:** cooperating, collaborating and leading or following as the situation demands

**Creativity:** being creative and imaginative in their thinking and in their approach to problem solving

**Curiosity:** being curious about the nature of learning and of the world, its peoples and cultures

**Empathy:** can project themselves into another's situation and tries to understand the thoughts, reasoning and emotions of others

**Enthusiasm:** displays enjoyment for learning, shows interest and relish when engaged in learning experiences

**Integrity:** having a firm sense of fairness and honesty and is truthful and trustworthy

**Independence:** thinking, acting and making judgements based on reasoned principles: and is able to defend those judgements

**Respect:** respecting themselves, others and the world around them

**Tolerance:** feeling sensitivity towards differences and diversity in the world and being responsive to the needs of others

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- **Thank you . . . thank you to our parents from the Early Years Team** for helping make this year's pumpkin display and costume parade special! Your time and generosity with the treats made a difference!
- **Now that morning are cooler at the Auberge**, I recommend that your children wear sweaters and jackets. May I also remind you that labels are required on all items of clothing – already **our Lost and Found box is full of unclaimed and unmarked clothing**. Check it out before the Thanksgiving break when all unclaimed items will be boxed up and sent to needy families.

#### **Not to be missed!**

**Two events this month from the TASIS Center for Counseling and Career Services:**

- **Wednesday evening, November 6<sup>th</sup>** at the High School. "Success lies in everyone! The psychological and academic potential of children with learning differences." A lecture by Ms Thanopoulou and the Resource Personnel on how psychologists and educators can make a difference in the lives of these students.
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December:** A coffee morning at the Auberge at 9.30 a.m. with a presentation on Self-Esteem by Ms M. Iatropoulou and Ms D. Polideras.
- **PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO ALL TELEPHONE NUMBERS IN GREECE:  
THE INITIAL 0 HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A 2.  
So our number at the Auberge is now 210 81 69 421**

#### **Read on for more Auberge news . . .**

**Hallowe'en News from Miss Mata Bardis:** The Art room was very spooky during the month of October as squeaking bats, wicked witches, creepy spiders and noisy ghosts made their way through our school from our Art room. Pre-Kindergartners, Kindergartners, First and Second Graders had been very busy preparing for the Halloween parade as they couldn't possibly go parading without a trick or treat bag. Third graders made great pumpkin pillows and even though it was the first time most of them had tried sewing, they all worked very hard to complete their Halloween task. The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Halloween pictures turned really scary: they were on display in the main entrance, while 5<sup>th</sup> graders made gleaming candleholders to decorate their classrooms on the day of the parade. Another Hallowe'en is over . . . till next year . . . BOO!

*Once again I would like to thank all the students and parents who frequently bring in recyclable materials to the Art room, as without them most of the art projects would not have been possible. Special thanks to: Michaella Eneva, Mrs. Kursumis, Casper and Elliot Pantazakos and all of you secret donors who leave things in the Art room!*

**Library News: 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders** have been getting used to reference terms in order to choose the fastest and most suitable resource for their needs. They have proceeded to find

answers to questions posed by deciding which reference source to use. There is an abundance of information available and students must be able to access it effectively.

**3rd Graders** have continued to work on alphabetical order, as this affects so many areas of the library, especially finding books on the shelves. We have arranged ourselves in ABC order according to our 'call number', that is the first three letters of our last name, and have practiced this skill with a number of relevant worksheets, one of which caused many a giggle with funny titles such as What's Inside a Book? by A. Page! We will then proceed to actually locate books on the shelves, using the Winnebago Spectrum5 computer program installed for that purpose.

The cover of a book is full of information, including the title, the name of the author and illustrator, the publisher with logo and a 'blurb' on the back cover to entice us to read inside. **1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Graders** are becoming adept at identifying these parts, but also know that even when a book jacket has been lost/removed and the cover appears rather dull, the story and illustration inside are often exciting and colorful. Don't judge a book by looking at the cover!

It is heartening to see so many eager students giving up part of their lunch recess to exchange books, so please encourage your child to return books regularly to keep them in circulation.

Thanks to Mrs. Kursumis, Mrs. Kadim and Mrs. Miller for all the help they have given in maintaining essential jobs concerning cataloguing, and circulation of books.

**Rosalyn Psallidas Library- Media Coordinator**

### **Drama news from Mr Drivas**

Drama club has started and I would like to welcome our new members to the club. We have a membership of 25 students from grades 3-5. Auditions took place two weeks ago for this year's exciting production which will be mix of different scenes and songs from various musicals throughout theatre history.

In drama class we are kept busy working on a variety of different lessons, from dance drama to ancient Greek dramas. Feel free to drop in at any time on a Thursday and join the class - we would be happy to see you.

**EAL NEWS from Miss Venetia:** All children have been busy in **EAL** classes this month! Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten have started their wonderful new course books. "Pingu Loves English" is a course for our young PreK's who have been learning new words through Pingu's fun stories. Also PreK's have been learning the "Body Parts" through action songs and games "**Head-shoulders-knees and toes**", "**Open-shut them...give a little clap.**"

Secondly, "**Balloons**" is a course book for our Kindergarten children which focuses on learning English through listening and speaking. Gradually children are introduced to reading and then writing familiar English words. The teaching is done through games, songs, chants action- based and pen to paper activities.

**Grades 1, 2, 3 Beginners and Grades 1, 2 Intermediate group** have been learning more sounds such as "**ch-sh**" through language chants and circle games. For example "This is my **ch**- sound today, **ch-ch** is what I say - with a **chin** and **chest**, begin **lunch**, **bunch** comes at the end"

**Grade 3 Intermediate group** has been working hard on **paragraph writing** as well as **story writing** while using introduction - build up conflicts/arguments - and concluding with resolution statements. **Grade 4 Intermediate group** has been working from the book 'Basic Rules of English Grammar 4', and learning about **Nouns** and **Pronouns** and how to use them in a story.

### **PE news from Ms Stephanie**

October has ended and now all students are aware of our PE rules and expectations. November will bring lots of new activities: Our younger students in PreK, K and 1st grade, will be practising target aiming and parachute games. They will also start with the dancing activities next week. Our objectives will be to promote movement and rhythm through fun dance tasks and activities. It would be very interesting, being an international school, if students could be introduced to dances from different parts of the world. This is why any help would be greatly appreciated. Please come find me and show me your country's dance, so we can work on it with the children. This way they can come in touch with many different cultures.

Our 2nd and 3rd graders will be mostly involved with Educational Gymnastics and Basketball Exercises. I'm very happy to say that our students continue to work well with following the rules, showing sportsmanship and practising fair play. It is most essential for us here at TASIS to understand that, the real value in athletics is not always winning but **participating!** We stress that and model that attitude constantly.

4th and 5th grade will continue working on our Physical Fitness and also start our volleyball Lessons. They will learn: setting, basic stances, finger and forearm passing and underhand serves.

***A thought for today . . .***

***"Children are tyrants. They contradict their parents,  
gobble their food and tyrannise their teachers."  
SOCRATES 402 BC***

**REMINDER of Thanksgiving Holiday Break**

**No classes on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday,  
November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Classes resume on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**