

# The Bear Essentials

## Principal's Monthly Bulletin

December 2002

It's Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December . . . the choir are busy practicing with Ms Solomon for our winter show, we are opening boxes of decorations for our Christmas tree, students are preparing for a quiz tomorrow in preparation for Jeans for Genes Day, volunteers are hard at work in the Library . . . and teachers are poring over drafts of student report cards which you will receive on December 11<sup>th</sup> at our Parent-teacher conferences.

To help us all make the best use of the appointment time on conference day, we ask that you arrive a few minutes early and pick up your child's report card from Ms Vicky in the reception area and then proceed to the conferences. This will give you the opportunity to read through the report before your discussion with the teachers. The article overleaf from our Resource Team this month is entitled, "**Ten Tips for a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference.**" It contains some helpful hints for a successful conference and we hope you find it useful and constructive. We all look forward to meeting you next week to discuss your child's progress.

- **Welcome to our new Early Years students and their families:** In JPreK we have enrolled **Mitchelle Jei Hernandez** and **Zi Syuen Lew** and in Kindergarten we have welcomed **Christos Drimeris**.
- **On behalf of our school community I wish to thank Ms Sophia Ioakimidou for her excellent work** as our substitute for our Greek teacher, Ms Evi Chilakou, who will be returning to work in January 2003. Ms Sophia has kindly offered to continue to be involved as a volunteer in the Greek program and is looking forward to chaperoning field trips and working with portfolios.
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Ms Iatropoulos and Ms Polideras will chaperone their Cookery Club students to a "Christmas Cookie Bake" at the Inter-Continental Hotel.** Details will be sent home this week to students in the Cookery Club.
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Winter Shows at 10.00 a.m. and at 2.00 p.m. in the Dining Room. PLEASE NOTE: To be able to accommodate our audience we are having two performances of our Show. **Parents of students in Grades PreK – 2 are invited to the morning show at 10.00 a.m. and parents of students in grades 3 – 5 are invited to attend at 2.00 p.m.**
- **School closes for the Holidays on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and classes resume on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2002. If you are planning to leave early for a vacation, please let us know.**

**On behalf of the TASIS administration,  
faculty and staff I send our best wishes to  
all our families  
for a relaxing, happy vacation and a  
healthy, peaceful 2003.**

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Ten Tips for a successful Parent-Teacher Conference  
Peggy Gister, Ed.S. and Marge Ebets, Ed.S

Parent-Teacher Conferences present an excellent opportunity to find out how your child is adjusting to the new school year and to get to know her/ his teachers.

Here are some general hints on how to have a successful conference:

1. Ask your child if there is anything that he would like to discuss with the teacher.
2. Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
3. Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
4. Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
5. Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
6. Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
7. Keep your emotions under control.
8. Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.
9. Express appreciation for the conference.
10. Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

## **Art News from Mata Bardis**

We have worked very hard this month with all the Pre-Kindergartners to sketch our School Helpers, now on display on the bulletin board right outside the Library. You are welcome to drop by and guess who's who.

Kindergartners have read a number of Leo Lionni's books with Ms Julie, and in Art we used stencils to trace, cut and glue Frederick, the mouse. We also looked at other Leo Lionni books and made a book of our own by working together.

In first grade we just finished our 'Now and Then' folders. The First graders created a number of patterns to decorate the interior of the folder, woven with yarn on their covers.

Second graders are just finishing up their Sculpture unit. We began the unit by looking at flat artwork and then gradually moved to 3D. Our pictures of our paintings when we included parts of our bodies will be coming out soon. Beautiful sculptures came to life in the Art room, when the Second graders came up with Mrs Kalokerinou and put them together.

In grade 3 we looked into Picasso and Da Vinci as inventors. We were fascinated with the way Picasso's Cubist paintings look like 3D images and experimented with Cubist pictures of our own. We also looked at Da Vinci and the way he used his talent as an artist to sketch his inventions.

In Grade 4 we just finished our paintings of Ancient Greek pots and have begun working on our clay projects.

Grade 5 will be participating in an Art Exhibition in Japan at the National Museums of Ethnology. This year's topic is "Preserve the Beautiful Oceans, Skies and Forests for the Future," and all entries need to be mailed before the end of the year.

That's all from the Art room for now. Have a lovely winter vacation!

## **Greek news from Miss Sophia**

November was a productive month in which all students have continued to show great effort and progress.

The fifth graders did excellent work with their presentations, their magazine pages and geography. They produced very good speeches on difficult subjects, such as "Why do stars fall?" or "Earthquakes and Volcanoes". They were very keen on finding information for ΓΕΓΟΝΟΤΑ (5<sup>th</sup> grade Greek magazine) and they did great work with their maps. They have been very enthusiastic asking for more presentations and magazine pages in addition to the work they have to do daily for their class and Greek Glossa! All I can say is congratulations on their performance.

Grades 1,2,3, and 4 have been working on their Glossa, reading and writing and the upper two grades have been borrowed interesting books for their book reports (due in the first week of December, don't forget!) Our students enjoy WRITING ! They all write very interesting stories – some students overdo it and write so much that they forget what their story was about in the first place! Fourth grade particularly enjoyed a magazine article on Absolute Ice Hotel in Lapland but nobody would like to visit there. Most of them are afraid their ears might break from the cold!

The Pre-Kindergarten and the Kindergarten worked some more on conversation this month and we managed to have everybody speaking! They've been doing great work with the Greek alphabet and syllables.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Host Language and Culture groups learnt about the gods of Mt Olympus, and did a very interesting crossword with Greek mythical monsters! We have started writing Greek words and phrases and this week they asked for homework! 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> grade HLC started their Show and Tell presentations on Greek artifacts from home, and they also worked on the Labors of Hercules. The majority of them agreed they wouldn't want to have Hercules as a friend, because he's "bad-mannered, quite touchy and if he got really angry with them, he might kill them right away!" We just started the Odyssey, so you'll be informed about their opinion on Ulysses in the next bulletin!

Finally, many congratulations on the transition group who have learnt how to read and write in Greek in such a short time!

### **PE from Miss Stephanie**

November was a month for new things in PE as we were kept busy with Dance, Volleyball, Basketball and New Games.

We worked on movement, rhythm, and patterns with PreK, Kindergarten and 1st grade through a variety of activities. Blue, yellow, green and red are the colors of the parachute that kept our younger ones going. *Up and Down, Round and Round in a Merry go Round* were favorite activities for PreK; *Quack, Quack, Quack* is the Kgn favorite – it's their "Birdy" dance activity – and *Let's Dance* for 1st grade who will continue putting their own steps together and building their own dance.

2nd and 3rd grade worked on basketball drills and educational gymnastics. Passing and shooting, along with front and back rolls are some of the items they'll be practicing all through December. Our 3rd Graders had the chance to invent their own PE games. They came up with very good ideas that prove how creative our 3rd graders can be! Volleyball was the sport for 4th and 5th grade. After passing and serving in different ways we will work on spiking and get familiar with the rules of the game.

Being already in our third month of school, I can't help but notice the improvement in gross and fine motor skills, coordination and movement for the early years children. Coordination, sport skills, physical fitness and health awareness are some of the items primary years children have really improved in. Bravo children, keep up the good work!

### **EAL NEWS from Miss Venetia**

Our beautiful **Pre-Kindergarteners** have been actively learning the '**Body Parts**' and movements through '**Hokey Pokey-Punchinello**' action circle games as well as number songs "**1.2.3.4.5 once I caught a fish alive...**" along with phrases "**What color is this? How many..?**"

Kindergarten have been busy following and sequencing math-colored patterns as well as learning simple commands such as **up/down** through "**Pingu says Hands up/down Stand up/ sit down**".

Its nearly winter so **Grades 1,2,3 Beginners and Grades 1,2 Intermediate group** have been exploring the yearly seasons, related months and weather conditions. Especially during our Autumn season children were able to create their

own Autumn Acrostic poems and further extend their vocabulary skills through a variety of seasonal '**Bingo**' games.

**Grade 3 Intermediate group** has been practicing the use of '**Punctuation**' through their journal and process story writing. With great enthusiasm, the group have been acting out short dialogue plays while putting in use " ", ! ? ; : .

Finally, **Grades 4,5 Advanced group** has been learning and putting in writing the use of **Adjectives, Homonyms/Synonyms**. By using Adjectives: "Our stories have become more colorful and alive" according to Alexander, Grade 5.

**WELL DONE TO ALL E.A.L. hard working children!**

### **Library News from Mrs Psallidas**

1st Graders have been analyzing the story McGreephy's Field as a tie-in with their unit Now and Then. It tells, and beautifully what happens to a farmer's field when left abandoned for 50 years. The many changes, from a field with neat rows of corn to a dense forest full of animals, are also documented through beautiful illustrations. There are many changes evident in the farmer himself when he returns 50 years later too!

2<sup>nd</sup> Graders worked on the table of contents and index of books – both there to help us find the information we need quickly. They worked **independently** to complete a 'book bits' crossword during the week we were focusing on Independence, as well as continued work on abc order of book parts and fairytale titles.

Researching for information on Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, involved much **cooperation** within groups during Cooperation Week. They were given specific information to find and did a good job on this their first research project of the year, which tied in nicely with their unit You Can Do It Too!

A lottery-type draw for partners to work **cooperatively** on choosing the correct (and fastest) source was successful for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders. They accepted that it is not always possible to work with someone of their own choice and by varying their partners they gain insight and understanding into the way others work. Some were even **committed** enough to give up part of their lunch recess time, voluntarily, to complete a worksheet given for that express reason - yes, during Commitment Week!

Once again my sincere thanks to my Library volunteers (Mrs. Kursumis, Mrs. Kadim, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Linardou)

***From all of us at the Auberge . . .  
Best Wishes for a Relaxing, Family Holiday  
and a Healthy, Happy 2003***