

The Bear Essentials

Principal's Monthly Bulletin

June 2002

It would be difficult to say which month of the year is the busiest in a primary school calendar, but June would certainly be a qualifier! Teachers work on the year's last unit of inquiry, students are selecting portfolio materials; our fifth graders are involved with the transition to Middle School and we have a tight rehearsal schedule for our end of year special events. I continue to interview and enroll new students and work on next year's calendar and schedules.

The end of year report cards for returning students are prepared during the last week of June and mailed to home address. However, if you wish to meet with a teacher for any special reason and have not been contacted already, please let Ms Vicky know so appointments can be arranged.

Please let me know if your family is relocating so your child's reports can be given to you on June 21st. Closure and saying good bye to friends is very important, especially in an international school where families move away and friendships are threatened at this time of the year. We will say our TASIS good-byes at a short assembly on Thursday 20th and you are most welcome to attend.

Our very best wishes go to Ms Christina Birbil who will pursue a new career involving animal rights and to Miss Paulina Diamandas who is returning to Pennsylvania. Ms Chrysoula Plutou will teach PreK next year and Ms Nancy Salaounis will teach grade 3. I am in the process of interviewing candidates for grade 4 homeroom teacher and ESOL teacher.

Diary Dates for June

- **Wednesday June 5th:** party for grades 4, 5 and 6 from 4.00 – 5.00 p.m.
- **Friday June 7th: Parent coffee morning at 9.15 a.m.** Try not to miss this special showing of an Oprah Winfrey video, featuring Dr Mel Levine.
- **Friday June 7th at 7.00 p.m. Open Air Musical Recital, featuring the Auberge Primary School orchestra and soloists, followed by a reception at 8.45 p.m.**
- **On Tuesday June 11th, Wizard of Oz rehearsal at the High School.**
- **Wednesday June 12th at 7.00 p.m. in the TASIS Theater: The Drama Club students will perform the Wizard of Oz Show.**
- **Friday June 14th from 10. 00 – 12. 00 noon: Come to our Mini Olympics on the grassy area to see examples of skills taught in our P.E. classes and our After School activities program. Seating will be in the shade, but bring a sun hat for younger children – it's hot out there!**
- **Thursday 20th June: Join us at 9.30 a.m. for end of year assembly!**

Friday 21st June: Talent Show by grades 3, 4 and 5 at 9.30 a.m. Buses will leave the Auberge at 12.00 noon. Parents should pick up their children at that time. Thank you.

WAR FILLED MEMORIES

By Jason, Ian, Eleonora and Iasonas

**All alone in a new world, no family, no hope, no friends.
Fear, scared you might die, scared of everything around you.
Pain hurts outside and sometimes inside, no one likes pain.
Famine is a painful torture and maybe even death.
Plague is a death slower than any other.
Torture... a man killer if I ever met one.
A bomb will destroy a victim whether it be quick or slow.
Doomed is what a person, small or big, cries before death.
Death is worse then any flame or bullet.
Terrorism, being a hostage, being homeless,
Persecuted, being treated wrongly and being tortured.
Depression eats away at hope, destroying all that can save you.
Family can help you through all the dangers that hurt you.
Peace will always be there even though it's been covered by war.
Peace will never give up; it will fight to get through.
Dreams of hope will never sever.**

Pre-K

It seems like it was just yesterday that we were out on the green area having orientation and now here we are already a year older! There is so much growth at this age level, physically, mentally and socially. As part of our "Changing Me" unit the students discussed and reflected upon some of the things they learned throughout the school year. Here are some examples of what they discovered:

- (1) We know all the letters!
 - (2) We can count to 20!
 - (3) We can make patterns with the shapes!
 - (4) We can play together!
 - (5) We have morning meeting- we talk about the calendar, the weather and our feelings!
 - (6) We feed the fish and turtles!
 - (7) We can tell stories!
 - (8) We can use the computer!
 - (9) We can sing nursery rhymes!
 - (10) We count with our fruit and teddy bear graphs!
- But most of all we like playing!

This was the first time the Pre-K participated in the student-led portfolios. They were very excited to share their work with moms and dads and so they should be. They displayed a great deal of effort and understanding as they communicated their thoughts to parents and reflected on their work. BRAVO!

As the year draws to a close, Ms. Alyson and I would like to thank you all for your help and support, have a wonderful summer!

Chrysoula Ploutou

Kindergarten

We have completed our Social Studies focus unit on Homes and Shelters, why we need them, how they are similar and different, and how they are constructed. Kindergartners learned that people construct houses around the world according to their needs and the characteristics of the place where they live. They take into account if the area is rainy or cold in the winter months. Castles were of great interest to all the students so we worked together to create a medieval castle out of used snack and lunch containers. During free choice activity time, the children use it as a puppet theater and transform themselves into kings, queens and knights.

Our final unit of the year is based on the theme "How We Organize Ourselves." It is an inquiry into the variety of people in our community who help us in different ways. We have been discussing cities, towns, neighborhoods, schools, classrooms and families and how we 'belong' to many different communities. A trip to Plateia Nea Pendeli is part of our study and the merchants there are a willing group of people eager to help our young learners understand how the butcher depends on the baker and they both depend on the green grocer and vice versa. We will work to distinguish the difference between needs and wants and you might hear your child use the term 'non-essential items' in describing all those things other than food/water, clothing, shelter and love and care!

We continued to work on our year long unit focusing on Personal Social Education. Emphasis has been placed on developing students' awareness of how behaviors have an impact on others and the outcomes of situations. Focus was also placed on helping our students develop positive behaviors and qualities to help them get along with others.

Julie Demopoulos

Grade 1

I'm sure you all remember some of the questions you had in September.

- How will my child learn how to read?
- What is invented spelling all about?
- What math skills might my child learn in first grade?
- What will my child inquire into during unit time?
- How much homework will my child have?

During the school year many of the activities we covered answered these questions. Just to mention some:

- We started the year by inquiring into the values of friendship. Together we developed a "Conflict Resolution Plan" which has proven essential for a peaceful school life.
- Next, we took a trip to the past and compared how we live now with the way people lived in the past. Our math lessons were geared towards telling time and the application of time in everyday life by using a calendar.
- A very important aspect of children's learning is how to make sense of the world around them. Through investigation, the first graders learned all about the three states of matter and their physical changes.
- In our fourth unit of inquiry, we explored the magical world of Fairy Tale Land. After meeting several Fairy Tale characters and discussing different plots, the students were inspired and wrote their own fairy tale.
- Ask a first grader what happens to milk before it ends up on your table, or ask them how to make bread, butter or pancakes, and you will definitely get a clear answer. They might even write you a shopping list with the necessary ingredients and give you a flow chart that shows step-by-step directions on how to make these yummy things. But beware, they may ask you to sing the answer to the following question: "What did you have for breakfast, for breakfast, for breakfast?"

- In our last unit, which is called Nature Trails, the students are busy inquiring into living things in our school's environment.

It has been a wonderful year full of learning experiences. We have worked, both independently and cooperatively, to master basic skills, conduct investigations and explore the world around us. Once again, thank you for all your help and support you have given throughout this school year!

H. BARRY

Grade Two

After Spring Break, our classroom was transformed into a rainforest. Our canopy corner was crawling with snakes, lizards and bugs and, on each rainforest layer, animals formed a habitat. With great curiosity, the students researched through books and looked for details that related human, animal and plant life to the rainforest environment. Parents and siblings, as well as the 4th graders were invited to take a walk through our rainforest and were encouraged to develop a greater understanding of how important it is for us to preserve this valuable ecosystem.

We're now into our last unit of the year and we are trying to develop a better understanding of how languages connect people. Our first visiting parent, Mrs.Khatib, read a story to us in her native Arabic language. We observed how she used gestures, facial expression, tone of voice and we found familiar words as well. We wonder how these will compare to other stories in the languages of our classroom.

June is nearly here and the school year will soon come to an end. It has been a year of excitement and growth for all. Best wishes to our families who are leaving Greece and moving on and a happy summer to all!

Louise Kalokerinou

Grade 3

I am so proud of the work Third Grade produced during our 'Time Detectives' unit! The children had to write a recount on what Howard Carter inferred about the ancient Egyptians from the artifacts he uncovered in the tomb of Tutankhamun. This was a challenging task as they had to research independently to gather the necessary information and then weave it into the format of a recount. They had fun presenting their writing in the form of a newspaper article, arranging the columns, pictures, creating an effective title and name for their newspaper. Another memorable experience for them all was the "shoebox dig." In order to simulate the work of an archaeologist, students had to excavate 'artifacts' that belonged to a secret classmate and then infer who they belonged to and what they told about that person. Throughout the process, they recorded their actions, discoveries and inferences in their unit logs and then presented these orally to the class.

Our final unit of inquiry, 'Ocean Emotion', has definitely stirred emotions in the third graders, as they are asking all sorts of questions concerning the impact human actions have on the ocean environment. For example "What does petrol do to the ocean environment? Are people aware of the consequences of their actions?". They have chosen to act on these emotions by designing posters to warn others of the effects and consequences and display these in the classroom. They enjoyed learning the names of all the oceans and how they are related, using the world map and atlases. They also watched a motion clip on the Encarta CD-ROM explaining the influence of the moon, sun and wind on the tides, and then created their own means of communicating what they learned visually. At the moment, they are busy learning about the marine food chain link and how living things rely on the ocean in order to survive.

As this academic year is coming to an end, I reflect on all the learning, understanding and fun I've had with my Third Grade and I smile, pleased, knowing they feel the same way. I am confident that after a nice rest during the summer they will be ready for the new challenges of the Fourth Grade. Have a safe and happy summer!

Nancy Salaounis

Grade 4

In this last unit, The Variety of Life, students have learned about the habitats of different animals. For instance, did you know that the crocodile has about 100 teeth and when he loses them they can grow them back 45 times each? Stjepan (habitat freshwater lakes). Or did you know about the frilled lizard, which lives in the desert, and has long digits or fingers to help it run extremely fast on sand (60 km per hour)? Erik.

We had the opportunity to visit the Goulandris Museum and the Spata Zoo to see some of the amazing animals which have lately been added to the zoo. We also did a wonderful study on the cactus with Mrs. Psallidas and then studied our own plants in different habitats (eg. The cattail can only grow and survive on fresh water- Stjepan).

In math we learned about the metric system and how to use it. We are now revising decimals, multiplication and long division.

Finally in this last unit we are exploring the past. Who discovered America, or who explored Asia, for example? We are about to find out, make maps and discover the course different explorers took.

Lastly I would like to wish you wonderful summer break. Best of luck next year in grade 5!

Irene Katsiotis

Grade 5

As the year is ending, so is the **PYP Exhibition** that the 5th grade Ambassadors have been working on so diligently. This experience has been engaging, relevant, and challenging. They have taken on the full responsibility of organizing the three main fund-raising events, the **Walk-a-thon**, the **Nearly New Sale**, and the **Travel Packs**.

We have raised approximately 2,000 Euros which will be donated to the Helping Hands Organization for the refugee children in Athens. The 5th graders and the Music Club will visit this organization on Friday, June 4th, to bring them the Travel Packs, the recycled paper, and the money that we have collected. In addition, the Music Club will entertain them with a few songs.

All of this would not have been possible if it weren't for the tremendous donations and concern that the school community has shared. We extend our most sincere thanks to all of you who participated in this event and helped to make it such a success. Of course, a very special thanks must go to the mentors, **Ms. Alyson**, **Ms. Marina**, **Mrs. Demopoulos**, and to the art and media coordinators, **Ms. Mata** and **Mrs. Psallidas**, and to **Mrs. Bear** for all her support and encouragement. This exhibition truly demonstrated the meaning of effective teamwork!

Following are comments about the exhibition from the 5th grade students:

- *This unit taught me a very important lesson: Be careful what you consider rubbish because the refugees have to make the most of what they have!* **Katie**
- *I feel happy about helping the refugees and proud about myself.* **Raymond**
- *This unit has given me the chance to use the attitudes and the student profiles.* **Ian**
- *I felt that this unit was the hardest and most hard working unit I have been in because we always had something to work on.* **Iasonas**
- *I felt happy and excited with all these fund raising activities. I want to stay at the Primary School again to do the same activities.* **George**
- *I think we have worked hard, cooperatively, and we have made lots of refugees very delighted with the party and the money we have raised for them. I have also learned to work with people.* **Frederick**
- *I think this unit has been wonderful with a lot of teamwork and communication, which meant a lot to me. I learned so many facts and I saw the differences between the refugees and us.* **Isabel**
- *I thought it was the best unit yet because I feel I have made a difference in some child's life who has felt very horrible at times.* **Erika**
- *This unit taught me to care for the needy, and that all people truly are equal but most of all, it taught me to be more giving.* **Jason**
- *I felt proud of all the work I did and delighted that I could help the refugees.* **Risako**
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I wish you all a healthy and happy summer and the best of luck in 6th grade! **Pamela Tagas**

Library News

As we come to the end of another year, I am reminded of how much progress each and every student has made with his or her library skills. Research skills are of paramount importance and are given priority, in order for students to work effectively on their units of inquiry. Where to find information, how to use it and make it their own by taking notes, paraphrasing, and synthesizing into a coherent form can all be learned. I am confident that the 5th Graders will be able to cope with the demands made on them in this area next year!

Location skills, finding those books on the shelf, are vital too and our students in 2nd Grade have become competent at using our Winnebago Spectrum5 automated program. Well done to those students who are constantly in the library at lunchtime exchanging books- we have a super collection just waiting to be read!

We have received so many book donations this year it is unbelievable. I thank you all for thinking of us and can assure you that the students are checking them out regularly. Many thanks for a last minute donation of a microscope set from the Monahan Family. The cataloguing of books, making an inventory and shelving of returned books has been facilitated by my wonderful helpers- Tara Daskalakis, Sydney Miller, Sarah Monahan, Nina Zinn and Marina Linardou, who has also helped me chose books for the parents' selection. As it is so close to the end of the current year, I will send the parents' booklist home at the beginning of the next academic year.

In order to collect all books in circulation, I am giving **June 4th** as the deadline for returning books, so please check those bookshelves if one has been misplaced! I am looking forward to welcoming you to our new library in Kefalari in September- all our books, computers, CD-ROMS, and videos will be there! Have a wonderful summer vacation and keep on reading!

**Rosalyn Psallidas,
Library- Media Coordinator**

E.A.L NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to all my hard-working students who have compiled their EAL Portfolios, while using a variety of hands on communicative language activities. I am highly pleased and impressed with all students' academic progress from the program, and especially with the Beginners group who came with few language concepts but are now able to read and write independently.

The EAL classes wish you, in many languages a Happy Summer!

TEN UN BUEN VERANO -Spanish,

CHESTITO LIATO -Bulgarian,

BONNE VACANEE -French,

SRETNO LIJETO -Croatian,

HOROSHIVO LETO -Russian,

SEF MNEEH -Arabic,

HEZKE LETO -Czech

GODSOMER -Danish

YOI NATSUYASUMIO OSUGOSIKUDASAI -Japanese

and finally, ***KALO KALOKAIRI-Greek.***

Miss Venetia

Greek

The end of the school year is just around the corner and everyone must be excited, planning for the summer holidays. Nevertheless this is a very busy time at school. The students are called to present the skills and the knowledge they have acquired throughout the year.

The 5th Graders have been working on their Exhibition, the culminating event of their PYP studies, with dedication and consistency. They have come up with wonderful ideas; congratulations to all of them. In Greek class, the 5th Graders have also been working on refugee-related topics for the Exhibition. They conducted an Internet research discovering interesting articles and facts on the subject, and had their first translation experience. With the help of the dictionary and with valuable observations on the sentence structure of the two language systems, they translated some passages from the site of UNHCR from English to Greek. They also created an informational poster for the Refugee Day (June 20). The logo they designed as well as the development of the poster's concept are nothing short of a professional team's work.

As far as independent writing work is concerned, Eleonora is to be commended on the *Story of a Refugee Woman* that she wrote using facts and vocabulary from relevant articles. Iasonas presented a short essay on the rights of refugees, while Raymond read a Greek children's novel on the "internally displaced" people of Cyprus and wrote a summary of it. I wish them every success in the Middle School.

The last couple of weeks everybody was occupied in compiling their Greek Portfolio. The students had the opportunity to select a favorite piece, a sample of written work as well as a piece indicative of their progress in Grammar. In the majority of the cases, my personal opinion would coincide with their choice. I am eagerly anticipating the parents' comments on their children's work.

As a conclusion to this report, I would like to congratulate all the Greek students for their effort and to thank them for their co-operation this year. I am pleased with the 1st Graders' achievements in reading Greek. The 2nd Graders have progressed a lot in Grammar and have

started to write independently. NG 3 students have had the opportunity to explore various writing styles and to enrich their vocabulary. Teaching the 4th Graders has been a delight! With their interesting observations and imaginative comments, they made every session a pleasant – rather, a memorable – experience.

Enjoy the summer holidays! And do not forget to include some Greek books in your luggage!

Dimitra Dimakopoulou

News from the Art room

Tons of artwork has come home during these past two days as we are coming closer to the end of the school year. Even though the art room feels empty with everyone's work taken down, I hope you will find a special little corner at home to put something up. It was a great pleasure putting everyone's work together and reviewing the skills each had been working on.

We were all touched by the 5th grade exhibition and everyone's extended efforts in making this possible. It is something that will stay in our hearts for the rest of our lives and hopefully we will have the opportunity to give a 'Helping Hand' in the future. Thank you for including us in such a lifetime experience. Moreover, we have put a video together regarding the exhibition. 5th graders may purchase a cassette at the price of 10 euros or a set of two DVDs at the price of 15 euros each. Just let us know if you would like a copy and send the money to Ms Dimitra by June 10th.

I would like to wish everyone a happy summer. Enjoy!

Mata Bardis