

The Bear Essentials

Principal's Monthly Bulletin

March 2003

- **Being a life long learner is an attitude we teachers strive to model for our students. Our point will be proved this month when - as part of the TASIS PYP professional growth program - I will be in Bucharest from March 12th to the 16th with Mrs Julie Demopoulos and Miss Mata Bardis to participate in IBO workshops, designed for experienced teachers working in authorized PYP schools. I will attend a workshop on Assessment, Mrs Demopoulos will attend one on Teaching and Learning in the PYP and Miss Mata will be working on Internationalism in the PYP. We will be working on the new campus of the American International School of Bucharest with participants from PYP authorized schools in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.**
- **Our Friday Spotlight presentations have started again. Through till the Spring Vacation, our first grade students will be introducing themselves to a peer group on Friday afternoons at 2.00 p.m. when you are very welcome to pop in and be part of our audience. (Please double check on Friday mornings with Ms Vicky in case of student absences.)**

Diary Dates for March

- **Tuesday, March 4th** at 10. 00 a.m.: Austrian Airlines will present **"The Joy of Flying"** to 2nd graders. You are most welcome to attend this presentation in the Multi Purpose area.
- **Friday, 7th March: Carnival Day:** students in all grades can wear costumes – but no guns or violent toys, please.
- **Monday 10th March: no classes for Clean Monday**
- **Wednesday, March 12th: at 6.00 p.m. in the TASIS Auditorium we are offering an informative lecture for parents on Chemical Dependency and Prevention.** TASIS Middle School students have already attended in-school presentations during Health Week on this topic as well as others on nutrition and healthy eating and on self-esteem. I strongly encourage the parents of prospective Middle School students to attend this lecture by two Counselors from the Center of Research and Human Behaviors. It will be excellent opportunity for parents to become aware of issues of concern during a child's transition to adolescence.
- **Wednesday 19th March: Parent/teacher conferences.** No classes for students. Letters with your appointment times will be sent home this week.
- **A short program** to honor the national heroes who led Greece to independence in 1821 **will be held at 2.00 p.m. on Monday March 24th, 2003. Please join us for this special celebration.**
- **Tuesday 25th March: no classes as this is Greek National Day. TASIS Primary students will participate again in the parade in Kifissia,** thanks to the positive response we received from so many families. Rehearsals begin on Monday for the signed up students - let us know by Wed. 5th March if your child should be added to the list.
- **Friday 28th March: Karagiosis Puppet Theater will be back by popular demand!**

Details soon!
CAMPUS NEWS . . .

- **Library news:** Linking with their unit on Traditional Tales, **1st Graders** have been focusing on The Three Little Pigs during Library time, analyzing the beginning (character and setting), the plot (where the 'problem' manifests itself and the action takes place) and the ending (where the 'problem' is dealt with). Various versions have been read, including one on-line, all with slight differences, and still to be heard is the alternative point of view, that is, the Wolf has to have his say- he's innocent of course and has been unfairly blamed! Sequencing the story and writing captions for the assembled version of the story in their own words is on going. **2nd Graders** continue to work on locational skills and are using the computer adeptly to help them locate the books on the shelves, impressing me with their ability and enthusiasm.

Creative Writer 2 is a great way to write stories- just ask the **3rd Graders!** Gaining experience in changing font size and color, inserting pictures and frames, and even sound effects is a definite link to their current unit, Bestsellers. Their stories will remain on the computers until parent-conference time, so please remember to pop in then to view the full electronic effects. Using the expanded search facility on our Winnebago Spectrum5 computer cataloguing system to locate information on non-fiction books has been the focus for **4th Graders.** Locating books arranged in numerical order is rather more difficult than by alphabetical order and needs lots of practice, but this group is rising to the challenge.

5th Graders have been on-line to Ellis Island searching for information to give their final project for their Immigration unit the authenticity it deserves. They enjoyed completing the initial processing questionnaire to see if they would be accepted as an immigrant, and finding out if there had been any actual immigrants with the same surname as themselves - a Monahan was amongst those listed!

The library has gratefully accepted book donations from Lara Bellone (Corduroy, a well-loved tale), Eftichi Kursumi (The Feel Good Book, a birthday donation) and Ms. Marina (The Tree is Alive, a cutaway book). Renee Kamaretsos has painted a 'book parts' Balloon picture to adorn our library walls and join her other masterpieces. My thanks, as always, to my volunteers (Mrs. Kursumis, Mrs. Kadim, Mrs. Linardou and Mrs. Miller) who continue to donate so much of their time and energy to the library.
Rosalyn Psallidas

- **News from the Art room:** Having left Valentine's Day and the hundredth day of school behind us we are on our way to spring. Thanks to Mr. Ahmed we had a lovely doorway panel to decorate our entrance on our 100th day!

Pre-Kindergartners wrapped up their unit by completing their music sets with blowing instruments, so it should be a lot quieter on their end of the hallway! However, Kindergarten "Nature Friendly" robots will be coming to life from the classroom right next door. "My robot will clean the ocean from plastic bags and old tires," said Phillip, while Riena's robot will be busy planting flowers and trees. Thanks to you our robots were made out of strictly recyclable materials. Our school has been fantastic with recycling and our storage room is now full. Please wait for a while before you send us your next "nature friendly" bag full of goodies.

In grade 1 we are working on our Fairy tale dioramas while in grade 2 we should be Ready for take off pretty soon. In grade 3 we are in the process of making our own Best Seller. We have already worked on our main characters and are almost completing our first draft. Being an author and an illustrator at the same time is a lot of hard work!

In grade 4 we have been learning about Ancient Japan and the Japanese myth of creation. The 4th graders made beautiful fans now on display outside the library, and will be making Japanese paper dolls for the Japanese Girl festival, celebrated on March 3rd. A Japanese Doll display for the festival is situated in the reception area and you are all welcome to drop by and have a look. It will be there until March 7th because as Risako informed us "Leaving it up any longer will be bad luck!" In grade 5 we finished our pictures on perspective and have started working with acrylic paints.

A Special Thank you to Mrs. Kamaretsos for the lovely presentation she gave to the 4th graders when she shared with us a lot of little tricks to make us better artists. Have a lovely month and make sure you keep nice and warm!
Miss Mata

- **EAL NEWS:** What a **Fantastic** musical performance we had from our **Pre-K** Musicians acting out "**I am the Music Man**", using a variety of musical instruments. Our **Kindergarten** group is becoming familiar with **Pingu's** family members. In this way they had the opportunity to bring pictures of their own families and share them during group time by saying: "**This is my Mother, father, baby**, etc. Please come in and see the '**family collage**' they created. During our **Math** session the group has been revising the numbers and colors while playing the '**Bingo Balloon game.**' **Grade 1 Intermediate** group has been continuing to learn new vowel sounds that make the same sound such as "**air-ere**" and "**ea.**" " I am flying through the **air** to land over **there**, with the hare and the **bear.**" I am highly pleased with **Grades 2 Intermediate** group's written work this month. Focusing on story writing and using unit related "**Airport jobs**" spelling words, each individual has created a storybook with an introduction, body and conclusion.

Group 3 Intermediate group has become familiar with the "**Narrative**" text type of writing. It involves the stages of orientation, complication, and resolution. This time the group has been choosing their favorite tale, describing characters as well as the main settings. Also the group is continuing to practice the use of "**Irregular verbs**" through spelling and bingo games.

Lastly, **Grades 4,5 Intermediate** group has been correctly placing **adverbs** and **adjectives** in their story writing. I HAVE SEEN BRILLIANT WORK IN ALL EAL CLASSES!
Miss Venetia

- **Greek News:** Pre-K and kindergarten worked on the Odyssey, watched it on video, drew pictures about it and acted it out in class. They also worked on pottery and the Cycladic idols, thanks to the museum kits we received from the Cycladic museum. HLC students also worked on the museum kits. They drew their own Cycladic statues, watched a video about them and had fun using the Ancient Greek Fun Book. They were very observant and asked many questions on how and why the Cycladic artists devoted so much time to reach perfection, considering the tools they used. 1st graders and 2nd graders keep working hard to get to the next part of Γλώσσα. Congratulations to the students who always take a new book to read at home. Do encourage your child to do this as extensive reading is essential for your child's progress.

In addition to their work in Γλώσσα, the upper grades worked in Greek on their units of inquiry. 3rd graders had to imagine they were archaeologists and, based on Greek history and myths they had to justify where they would go for an excavation in Greece and what objects they would expect to find there. 4th graders read Greek myths and filled in relevant questionnaires for their Myths and Legends unit.

5th graders researched information on their favorite topics, covering a wide range of subjects such as pioneers, butterflies and famous artists like Dali. Some of their work is on display on the Greek bulletin board. Some students have already handed in their second book report. Please remind your child in the upper grades the upper grades that book reports are due by March 14th.
Ms Chilakou

- **PE News:** The weather has not really been on our side this month and many activities have had to take place indoors. PreK and Kgn enjoyed their tag and parachute games and the music added to the organized games. Grade 2 and 3 practiced their Greek dancing which you will see on March 25th and they are enjoying playing 'Zones" and Musical hoops."

Grades 4 / 5 worked on fitness before starting handball and sprint running next month.

Practice for our March 25th Parade in Kifissia will begin next week also. We want to be well prepared and proud to be representing our school!
Miss Vavoulas