

Middle School Newsletter

October 2003.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with pleasure that I am sending you this first update of activities.

Our students quickly became accustomed to the schedule and a daily routine has already been established.

Middle School faculty and MYP Area Leaders are joining me in describing some of our activities and field trips. Student Council elections have taken place and I congratulate all the candidates.

I look forward to seeing you all at the "Back to School Social" on October 22nd at 6:00pm.

Sincerely,

*L. Corsi
Middle School Principal*

Bonding Trip to "The Ranch"

This year's MYP bonding trip took place on Friday September 26th. Middle School students went to the Skouras "Ranch" in Corinth.

They enjoyed a full day in a wonderful 'western' style environment and took part in many activities. Soccer on the 5x5 pitches, tennis and volleyball were the favourite activities.

The highlight of the trip was the horseback riding, which our students enjoyed and the wagon rides.

The day culminated with a wonderful lunch at the 'Saloon'.

*Roberto Scilipoti
Grade 7 Advisor*

Field Trip to EMY

On Thursday October 9th, 6th and 8th grade students went on a field trip to the National Meteorological Centre (EMY).

They were informed on various issues about the weather such as how weather forecasts are predicted and it is necessary to predict the weather.

The students were then toured around the grounds and were shown the instruments required to measure climatological conditions and to predict the weather.

This field trip was part of their Science, Geography and Technology courses.

*Roberto Scilipoti
Technology*

Homo Faber

I keep six honest serving-men (they taught me all I knew). Their names were **What** and **Why** and **When** and **How** and **Where** and **Who** - Rudyard Kipling.

What is Homo Faber? - It is the area of interaction where one looks at the creations and developments of man's genius over time.

Why is Homo Faber so important? - It is an integral part in learning, creating and assessing man's ability to change and better their world.

When is Homo Faber used in the subject areas? - All the time! From discussing social development, scientific or mathematical thought, expressing ideas in words or through the arts. It is allowing the student to become the creator.

How has Homo Faber been used so far? - Grade 9 reflected on how ideas can produce either a positive and/or negative response from the community. Grade 8 looked into the influence and perhaps the downfalls of recent discoveries in science. Grade 7 debated what makes a leader and what qualities they should possess in order to be a peacemaker rather than a peace breaker. Grade 6 also discussed leadership and roles one must take on and the changes they can bring about for their community.

Where can Homo Faber be seen? - Check out the Middle School bulletin boards both in and outside the classrooms. They are bursting with guiding questions and student thoughts!

Who is Homo Faber? - This year's new student council!! Congratulations to: Vania Bovan and Jackie Cremos - Grade 6; Tanya Husler and Jackie Abhulimen - Grade 7; Kay Husler and Sofia Berkhout - Grade 8 and Nasia Kalokerinou Grade 9.

*Maria Voulgaris
Homo Faber Area Leader*

ATL

Leaving summer habits and routines behind seemed such a difficult thing to do, however, students in grades 6 - 9 have proven themselves capable and willing to make this school year memorable.

All students were given a guideline sheet that pointed out tips for completing assignments and making papers really neat looking. Slowly, but surely, margins are being drawn with pencil on the edges of papers, schedules are being hung inside lockers to remind individuals for both class timetables and when homework should be completed as well as learning to use abbreviated forms/notes for recording information in academic diaries. A truly lovely experience is watching the development of beautiful cursive handwriting that is evolving from students who said just a few short weeks ago that they were being asked to do the impossible!!

Lastly, students have been given a variety of specific goals related to good study skills for the month of September. These skills fit into the curriculum-planning matrix for MYP. Goals such as establishing portfolios, bringing proper materials to class, arriving to class on time, organizing and keeping a locker clean and

budgeting time for homework were all included. New skills have now been posted for the month of October. Let's see how quickly these skills will become good habits for life.

*Meg Matsaganis
ATL Area Leader*