

The Bear Essentials

Principal's Monthly Bulletin

October 2003

October promises to be a busy month as our school life gets into full swing here at the Auberge. Our After School activities started this week, as did our In School Enrichment program for students in grades 3 – 5. The enrichment program is an in-school program on Wednesday afternoons for all students in grades 3 – 5. The program is designed to allow cross grade participation in cookery, a comics club, origami or a games club. Students were involved in choosing their enrichment class and will change their program every trimester to allow them to experience different activities. **Lunchtime Art, Aerobics and Music Clubs are also underway.**

I want to thank all parents who volunteered to help out at school this year. Your names have been distributed to all teachers who will be contacting you with details of days and times when we will be more than happy to use your services. Mrs Psallidas has details of our Library helpers in her section of this bulletin. As we continue to deepen our understandings of the true meaning of internationalism in a school like ours, we are searching for ways to heighten awareness of the diversity within our school community. Mrs Harker will present our first international display on Native Alaskan culture and nature.

Canteen: In September we sent a master copy of the canteen menu for you to refer to each month when you compile your child's order. We will not, therefore, send a copy of the menu each month, but if you should need an extra copy please ask Ms Dimitra. Please remember that all orders are to be prepaid with the exact change. In the event of an emergency we are able to provide some prepackaged cookies or small snacks.

Student safety: Just a reminder that parents should collect their children from teachers at the designated doors to the building. **Students are not allowed to wander over to parked cars at the end of the day.** This rule is for your child's safety. Thank you for continuing to drive with extreme caution as you enter and exit the premises.

Looking Ahead . . .

- In November 2004, we will have a re-evaluation visit from the IBO. Part of our preparatory work for this visit is a self-study evaluation which the administration and faculty will embark upon this year. Each week, faculty members spend up to four hours in planning meetings with colleagues, working intensively and collaboratively to review and refine the units of inquiry your children will study in the Primary Years Programme. This is challenging but rewarding professional work as we examine – and re-examine – our personal attitudes, teaching styles and philosophies of education. I look forward to presenting a brief, updated overview of the PYP on Back to School Night.

Diary Dates for October

- **Friday 3rd October is Jeans for Genes Day.** This is one of our annual fund raising events, that enables students to take action on an international level. Students may wear jeans to school that day for a donation of 1.50 Euro. and all proceeds go to the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London to support research into Genetic Disorders in Children.
- **Back to School Night will be held on Wed. 15th October from 6.30 – 9.00 p.m.** This will be your opportunity to learn more about the Primary Years Programme and the TASIS Center for Counseling and Career Services, and to visit your child's classrooms to see the wonderful work your children have done in the first month of school. It promises to be an informative, social evening for parents – please don't miss it!
- **Monday 20th October: We'll all be in pictures!** Details of photo day are being sent home with this bulletin.

- **Monday 27th October: Oxi Day performance at the Auberge at 9.15 a. m.**
Preparations are well under way and students have been given the texts of the materials they will present to parents. Please help your child learn their lines so they can proudly give their best performance in this significant Greek celebration. Thank you.
- **Friday 31st October is Hallowe'en: This year we will limit our celebration of this event to a Pumpkin Display** and I will be sending you order forms for pumpkins next week. We have made many changes to our schedules this year to ensure that students have adequate instructional time to benefit from our PYP curriculum and our all school costume parade will be celebrated according to the Greek calendar, on the day before Clean Monday.

Now read on for more campus news . . .

PE news from Miss Stephanie

Back to school we are, hoping to have a very exciting, creative and fit year. During our first month we've been getting to know each other better and have been engaged in many activities. PreK, Kg and 1st graders are working on their body and spatial awareness, hand and eye coordination and gross motor skills. We will continue working on these skills next month through low organized games and obstacle courses. It gives me great pleasure to be working with such an enthusiastic group of children.

In 2nd and 3rd grade we will focus on volleyball exercises which will at the same time help promote important body aspects such as spatial awareness, hand eye coordination and gross motor skills. Soccer will be our sport for 4th and 5th grade. We'll be learning how to dribble, pass, shoot, goal keep and the rules of the game. Our after school activities are starting this month. 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades will be occupied with Mini Tennis and 4th and 5th grades will be doing volleyball.

Library News

How lovely to have a library full of students once again! I am impressed at how much the Intermediate Year students have retained of their library skills from last year and how adept they are at using the computer to locate books on the shelves. 3rd Graders have been quick off the mark in using the library for additional research for their Inventions unit and 4th Graders found some great 'human body systems' sites with information at an appropriate age level. The library is open every lunch recess not only for the exchange of books, but also for computer/ research purposes, and I'm happy to report that it has been used for both already.

The Early Years students have specific days for return of their library books. Pre-Kindergarten has an allotted time on a Tuesday, Kindergarten on a Thursday and 1st Grade on a Friday-perfect for a weekend read! 2nd Graders have been returning their books at lunchtimes, along with the older grades, and it has been working well so no specific time slot has been arranged. Books may be borrowed for a period of up to two weeks but may be renewed for a further two weeks. Please encourage your child to return books on time and in a good condition but mainly encourage them to read, read, read!

We have received new books over the summer months and also donations from several sources. The Borsetto family (Perla and Francesco) donated a bi-lingual Vietnamese and English book of Folktales; Stjepan donated several early readers he has outgrown and Erika donated some fiction books. Thanks to all! I have begun to catalogue them and hope to be assisted in this very shortly by library volunteers. I am at present arranging a schedule for times to help out but would like to thank those of you who have volunteered your time - it is greatly appreciated.

Rosalyn Psallidas
Library-media coordinator

E.A.L. NEWS FROM MISS VENETIA

**HELLO! GIA SAS! ZDRAVEI! BONJOUR! LABAS! PRIVET! FROM THE E.A.L. CLASS!
THESE ARE SOME OF THE GREETINGS OUR CHILDREN SHARED IN THEIR MOTHER
TONGUE LANGUAGE DURING E.A.L GROUP TIME!**

Firstly, I would like to *WELCOME* our new *Pre.K Heroes* who form a really big group this year. We have just started our lessons and children have become comfortable sitting in a circle and greeting each other in their own language and in English, HOLA! *PreKindergarten* will soon be starting to work from the course book "Balloons" that introduces children to English through play. Children will learn language through hands-on activities, games, animal puppet mascots, cut outs, other 'sing and say' songs/chants and conversations.

Our *Kindergarten* children will soon get a head start using one of the best educational workbooks "Letters and sounds". It helps students recognize and write the upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet and to understand that each letter represents a sound and to hear the sound at the beginning of a word. The fun part is that colorful stickers are part of each lesson.

Grade 1 Beginners have become comfortable by greeting each other and most importantly sharing their family backgrounds during group time. The group has started learning the alphabet while working from the wonderful and imaginative workbook "Alphabet skills". The focus is on the sounds the letters make and writing to practice letter formation.

Grade 2 Intermediate group has been exploring different aspects of mapping along with the use of Directional/Positional words. For example 'when you face the North, West is like the direction to your left'.

Grade 3 Intermediate group has been concentrating on instructional language while researching a variety of inventions. The children have been using a guidance of instructional words/questions (Who? What? Why? Where?) through the process of writing. Finally *Grades 4, 5 Intermediate group* has been revising and working on grammar rules.

Art News from Miss Mata

As the first school month of the year is coming to an end, samples of our artwork are already up on display. We began with a baseline sample of self portraits and feel very proud of our first project as it helps us find out about other members in our community.

With Art Club starting on the 30th for grades 1 and 2 and on the 3rd for grades 3, 4 and 5 the art room will be busy during lunchtime.

Recycling is continuing in the Art room, so if you have any shoeboxes, old light bulbs or old pieces of cloth that you were planning on throwing away, please send them in.

Thanks to Ian in 5th grade, who donated a Van Gogh postcard to the art room, we came up with a lovely idea of creating an Art postcard display. So, if you have any postcards showing works of art that you would like to donate, we would be very thankful!

Let's all have a healthy, productive and creative, month!

