

Middle School Newsletter

October 2004

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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

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

Middle Years Programme faculty and Area Leaders are joining me in describing some of the activities.

I would like to wish you all a productive and happy school year.

Sincerely,

*Lucy Corsi
Middle School Principal*

Welcome 6th Grade!

As the new MYP transition assistant and advisor, I would like to welcome the 6th grade students and their families. Under the auspices of Ms Corsi, I will be responsible for helping our students adjust to the changes of a new school environment.

The theme of the 6th grade Advisor Club this quarter is "FILES, NOT PILES!", which enables students to organize themselves. Introductory activities included familiarizing students with their new environment, the MYP model, assessment, lockers, academic diaries and teacher expectations.

Parental questions, concerns, and suggestions are welcome!

Faye Pattakos
6th Grade Advisor

Trip to Paralympic Games

On Tuesday September 21st, grades 6 - 10 attended the Paralympic Games. This was a mandatory activity for the whole school in order to heighten students' awareness of the Olympic Spirit and applaud the efforts of individuals who have managed to surpass their physical limitations.

All students, escorted by their advisors and other teachers, took the train to the Olympic complex where they attended Athletics, Wheelchair Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball, Cycling and Swimming. They also had the opportunity to take a tour round the premises and enjoy their lunch there.

Students were an enthusiastic audience and, as they themselves said later in their reflections, they thoroughly enjoyed this unique experience.

Maria Protopapa
Community and Service Area Leader

From the Center for Counseling and Career Services Center

Can you imagine a world where all the flowers have the same colour, the same smell? What if all people looked the same, did the same things and thought the same thoughts? The answer is obvious. Differences make our world exciting. If it weren't for people who thought differently, some of our biggest problems would never have been solved, some of our greatest inventions would never have been imagined. All human beings think and learn differently. These differences, however, need to be understood and appreciated, if children are to grow and develop into healthy human beings, reaching their full potential

Learning Differences was the subject of the lecture "**LD Awareness: When Intelligence is not Enough: The Social, Psychological, and Academic Profile of the LD Student, including the Gifted and the ADHD**" which was given on Wednesday October 13th, at our school. Ms Gina Thanopoulou presented the general profile of the LD student and Ms Penny Dris focused on ADHD and giftedness. Parents, who attended, presented the stimulus for the lively and informative discussion that followed. We will certainly have more such lectures in an attempt to respond to the need for information on the difficult and often very frustrating issues that arise when 'intelligence is not enough' for a learner to succeed, and a human being to be all that she or he can be. We look forward to seeing you there.

Athletics

Middle School students are actively involved in the ISA Interscholastic Programme. They are taking part in the U-14 Boys Soccer Team, and the Junior Varsity Volleyball and Soccer Teams.

The students practice once a week and they also get the opportunity to play friendly games with other international schools.

The Athletics Department is also organizing an Outdoor Educational Trip to Nafaktos. The students will experience the adventure of rafting, the joy of horseback riding and paintball.

Athletics Department

Library News

This year students of grades 6, 7 and 8 are taking Library Skills classes to broaden their reading interests and to practice their study skills. The classes were initially designed in accordance with the MYP recommendations and also to give the young students the opportunity to enhance their individual class projects through research using the library reference material and online facilities.

So far, students have had the chance to browse through the library's automated catalogue, Spectrum 5, and locate fiction books of interest on the shelves. They have familiarised themselves with borrowing procedures and responsibilities related to the treatment of books and their prompt return to the library. Various class projects have been researched through basic skills acquired, and most students have become proficient at using the library and Internet resources, and have a general awareness of where and how to begin their search for information.

Our students are enthusiastic and have a natural sense of responsibility when it comes to working in the library. They take an active interest in the organisation of the library / media center and are always keen to assist one another or the librarian when the opportunity arises.

Maria Metaxa
Librarian

Homo Faber

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 of 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 developments, thinking scientifically or mathematically, to expressing ideas in words or through the arts it allows the student to become the creator.

How has Homo Faber been used so far? - Ninth graders are beginning the process of writing their Personal Projects. Eighth graders are researching inventors and creators in their subject areas. Seventh graders are designing and constructing lever shadow puppets for the winter performance, and Sixth graders are discovering the creative and design cycle needed in creating a final piece of work.

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 Student Council! Congratulations to: Eleanora Raftopoulou and Isabel Aharonian - Grade 6; Elena Doriza and George Savevski - Grade 7; Yousef Chatzialis and Stefania Georgiou - Grade 8; and Anna Maria Gueorguieva and Daneve Margos - Grade 9.

So far, the group has raised money through a Tags Day for their up-coming Mango Wango Bango Tango Dance on November 12th! They are also working hard in planning other social events for their classmates for the school year.

Maria Voulgaris
Homo Faber Area Leader