

Middle School Newsletter

March 2005

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with pleasure that I send you this update of our activities. It has been very busy since our return after the holidays. Faculty members are once more joining me in describing some of our activities.

*Lucy Corsi
Middle School Principal*

Some dates to remember:

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| Friday March 25 th | Greek Independence Day - no classes |
| Wednesday April 13 th | Parent - Teacher Conferences |
| Friday April 22 nd | Last day of classes before Spring Break |
| Monday May 9 th | Classes resume after the Spring Break |
| Friday May 13 th | Drama Club Show |
| May 18 th - 20 th | Environmental and Science Activities |
| June 9 th - 16 th | Final exams for grades 6 - 12 |
| Friday June 17 th | Last day of classes |

MYP Science Update

Grade 6 is studying "The Power of Plants". The students are designing experiments which determine what affects the germination of seeds and plant growth.

Grade 7 is looking at the movement of particles in all three phases and what effects temperature has on these. They will then extend this to how solid particles dissolve in water and design experiments to see what affects solubility.

Grade 8 is studying patterns in the Periodic Table and the reactivity of metals. They have been designing their own experiments to determine the reactivity series.

Grade 9 is also studying the Periodic Table and its patterns. In particular they are looking at how atoms combine.

Field Trips : Nestle coffee making and packaging factory. Grades 6 - 10 (February)
Planetarium. Grades 6 - 8 (March)

Metlink Project : Grade 8 - Geography, Science, Information Technology
February 28th - March 3rd.

H. Tzaros
Head of Science

Math - Art - Design Technology - Information Technology

Grade 8 Art and Design Technology classes have been working hard in the creative cycle! At the start of the year they followed the design loop in creating their functional and unique hat for the Winter Holiday performance. During the second quarter the class began planning and constructing their functional and amazing cam projects. The task has proven to be both challenging and fulfilling. Students are facing mechanical obstacles and learning how to problem solve, communicate and analyze. It has been exciting watching this group hard at work! Their completed cam project is due in early March.

M. Voulgaris

Following up on the *Grade 7 Art and Design Technology* classes, the students have been developing shadow puppets. After their visit to the **Spathari Karagiozi Museum** in Maroussi, the students were better prepared to present their own impromptu performance to the Primary School. The Art class focused on animals and their textures in observational drawings using oil pastels. Then the DT class used their art work to construct a functional shadow puppet keeping in mind both positive and negative spaces while using a matting knife. To conclude this unit of positive and negative space the Art class designed a colourful graphic poster with their shadow puppet stencils.

M. Voulgaris

Math, Art, Design Technology and Information Technology ... oh my! Grade 7 and 8 students participated in a most interesting interdisciplinary unit, where students and Homo Faber (man the creator) came together! In mid February students participated in a workshop on tessellations and transformations based on the work processes of artist **M.C. Escher**. Samples, examples and activities led the small group into reviewing and putting shapes into action.

Ms Milioni led the students through the easy, yet advanced process of math and tessellations. Ms Voulgaris introduced the aesthetics and creativity of Escher's pieces and Mr Scilipoti taught the Paint programme and how to create their own tessellations. Following the preliminary workshop, the classes then visited the gallery **Herakleidon** in Thesion where students toured the multi-leveled exhibition and viewed Escher's woodcuts, lithographs and memorable pieces. Many of the students were amazed at the development and methods in which Escher used to focus on nature, metamorphosis and infinity.

A video on Escher was presented in the end surprising students that this artist was not fond of math and although he liked art, he was not really good at it. To conclude the Homo Faber unit, students gathered again to review the works, techniques and the math of Escher's pieces. They worked very hard in designing their own design motif tiles, tessellating planes and IT tessellating compositions.

The Escher and Tessellations interdisciplinary unit went beyond infinity and back

M. Voulgaris

Foreign Language Department

Grade 8 Greek language students made wonderful posters on Health followed by a very successful food activity.

R. Deriziotis
Head of Foreign Languages

The Arts

Drama Club - students have begun rehearsals for their up-coming show in May "**How to Act Like a Child**" which is based on the original script and their own work during club sessions.

Forensics Team - 7 of the 7th graders are preparing for the Forensics Tournament in Thessaloniki - March 17th to 20th, Our students will be competing in Duet Acting and Oral Interpretation.



Music - many talented Middle School students are practicing every spare moment for the Talent Concert in April. They are developing their vocal and instrumental skills in a variety of music genres.

Z. Avradopoulos
Head of the Arts

The Athletics Department



The Under 14 Boys Soccer Team is ready to attend the Soccer Tournament at ACS.

March 21st after school there will be a JV Soccer Tournament at St. Catherine's

The Under 14 Boys and Girls are practicing during lunch time preparing themselves for the March 23rd Soccer Tournament that will again take place at St. Catherine's.

J. Vradis
Head of Physical Education

Limericks Corner

M. Petridou - Grade 7 English

She was in agony and suspense
She decided to go over a fence
She fell with a loud thump
And got a very big lump
Realizing that she needs to use sense.

Vania Bovan

Once I had a tall teacher
But I could not reach her
She explained stuff clear
Like they were crystal clear
I thought she was a creature.

Elena Dorizas

A girl in a large purple hat
Caught sight of a small yellow rat
She screamed and she cried
Till she finally tried
To bring in a big tabby cat.

Jackie Cremos

Those honks in the cold wintry sky
Mean all geese are flying quite high
Those quacks from their mouth
Mean they're heading for south
But their noisy behaviour-oh-my!

Jackie Cremos

There was once a star that fell through the sky
The children were watching and asking why
The star would fall
The old lady would call
The children to eat their pie.

Mariangela Tripodanos

There was once a woman from Britain
Who always wore a yellow mitten
She wore a bright purple cap
And liked cats on her lap
Because she felt cold just sittin'.

Eftichi Kursumis

School is boring and terribly hard
So we'd rather be in our back yard
In school we take in a lot of knowledge
For we will soon go to college
We can't escape, for our teacher is our guard.

Giorgio Rombotis