

The Bear Essentials

Primary School Bulletin

March 2008

We have six busy weeks until our Greek Easter break! In addition to our regular program and the special days listed below we are looking forward to meeting the parents again on March 20th for the 2nd trimester reports. School will then be closed until March 26th in celebration of the Greek National day. Faculty will attend an In-Service presentation on *Help and Hope for "Anxious children"* on Friday 21st March. This program was created by Dr Aureen P. Wagner, Ph.D. to assist school professionals with the early recognition and effective intervention needed to support children with anxiety disorders and related learning difficulties. This workshop will be presented for parents on the evening of Wednesday April 9th as part of our parent meeting program.

- Congratulations and thanks are due to all involved with three recent celebrations of learning in our primary school. Firstly, I must thank those who helped with our Mother Tongue Show last week – it was wonderful to hear that we have 19 native languages spoken at the Primary School! Congratulations are also due to our grade 4 students who did a marvelous job this year in debating whether life was more progressive in Ancient Athens or Sparta. A vote of 36 – 34 showed just how persuasive both teams were! Grade 1 invited their parents and guests for breakfast and proudly shared what they have been learning about food production and preparation. And finally, the parents of our grade 6 class discovered what life in the Fertile Crescent must have been like, as part of a Humanities unit of study. The quality of the presentation and the ease and confidence with which our students answered questions from the audience was very impressive indeed. Well done!
- As of Wednesday 12th March – in an attempt to ensure a more efficient dismissal procedure, the green pedestrian gate on Xenias Street will be opened by our security officer from 3.40 to 4.10 p.m. daily for parents to collect their children from the Multi Purpose door. Please be considerate when parking, however, as we have received complaints from residents in nearby apartments about parents using private driveways as parking place. This should alleviate some of the congestion at the front of the building, which now looks very attractive, thanks to the work of Mrs Benakopoulou.
- **Welcome to our two new students and their families!** Taylor Veal and Caitlin May have joined Mrs. Kalokerinou's class, having recently moved to Greece from America.
- **It is school policy that students wear school uniform every day**, unless we are holding a Tag Day when they can wear their everyday clothes. Teachers have informed me that recently many students are out of the regulation uniform. **Please ensure that your child comes to school appropriately dressed.** To simplify matters, I have arranged with the PE Department that students in grades Kgn - 5 may come to school wearing their PE uniform on the days their class have a PE lesson. This should also help with fewer items of clothing ending up in **the Lost and Found basket which is brimming again with unclaimed**

items of school uniform. Please come in and check for your child's missing clothing. Unclaimed items will be sent to the refugee center for needy children in May.

Diary Dates for March

- **Wednesday 12th March:** grade 6 on science field trip with ISA Middle School students.
- **Wednesday 13th March:** grades 4, 5 and 6 on a science field trip to the Planetarium.
- **Friday 14th March:** No classes for students at Melina's Kindergarten, due to the parent – teacher conferences for students at Melina's.
- **Wednesday 19th March:** You are invited to attend our Greek Independence Day assembly at 2. 30 p.m. in the ISA theater.
- **Thursday 20th March: Parent-Teacher conferences** to mark the end of the 2nd trimester. Please call Ms PaulineTrakas if you need to change the suggested meeting time. There are no classes for students at ISA campus on this day.
- **Thursday March 27th:** grades 3 and 5 field trip to the Goulandris Museum.
- **Monday 31st March:** grade 3 visit to the Caves at Peania as part of their unit of study on what is under our feet.
- **Friday April 4th:** grade 5 field trip to the Islamic Museum, as part of their unit of study on the 5 Major World religions.
- **Monday April 14th:** Our Intermediate grade students are invited to attend a professional theater production, "The Surprise party" in a downtown Athens venue.
- **Friday 18th April:** Easter Break begins. School re-opens on Monday May 5th 2008.

Easter in Greece is a very special time – new comers will be amazed at the richness of the traditions which are followed. Get out and about in the city and on the islands where old traditions may be more obvious, but book early as Greek families travel back home for the special Easter feast with their families. Stores are full of special Easter candles and red painted eggs are everywhere . . . fasting is commonplace during the Lent period so try the foods on display in supermarkets . . . try to visit a church to see the lovely floral decorations during Holy Week when icons are proudly paraded through the streets. Catch the holiday spirit . . . the lilac blossom will remind you that spring is in the air!

The ISA Summer School programs will run from June 30th to July 25th 2008. Further details may be had from Mrs Barry at Melina's Kindergarten and from Ms Trakas.