

The Bear Essentials

Primary School Bulletin

October 2008

With our lovely Greek weather it's hard to believe we will be changing the clocks this weekend and will be soon turning our calendars to November. Here at school your children are finishing up the first unit of study and the mid trimester reports have been sent home. If you wish to meet with a teacher to discuss any aspect of your child's learning, please do not hesitate to make an appointment through Ms Pauline, tel. 210 6233888.

- Congratulations are due to Ms Sophia and her Greek students for their annual OXI Day performance which we all attended this morning. Once again, it was a creative celebration of one of Greece's most important national holidays. It is an honor for our Greek speaking students to take part in such a special performance and they did a very fine job!
- Lunch time soccer on the new green area is proving very popular and congratulations are due to our young soccer players who drew 2- 2 with Byron School recently. Well done, boys!
- It was lovely to welcome so many of our parents to the first Parent Group meeting in October. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss psycho-educational and parenting issues. Any parent of ISA who may find these discussions interesting is more than welcome to attend. The topic for the next meeting on the 4th November will be "How to raise Children with Love, but Limits and Boundaries." We look forward to seeing you there!
- Thank you to all the parents who have offered to volunteer for different events throughout the school year. Ms Pauline will contact you soon as to when and where we will be more than happy to use your services. Already I see that Mrs Demopoulos' volunteers are hard at work in our library! Our aquariums, plants and flowers continue to flourish thanks to the constant care from Mrs Benakopoulou. We also have High School student volunteers who work with us as part of their CAS programme. (Community Action Service)
- I am always impressed by our community's response to fundraising. Thank you all for making it possible for ISA to deposit two hundred and fifty euro in the Jeans for Genes account at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London to support research into genetic disorders. I have learned that the total raised by schools worldwide to date this year is 1,183,000 pounds sterling !

The following quote from one of the letters our students wrote to the doctors who conduct research into genetic childhood disorders illustrated the empathy that children can show. *"I am looking forward to donating more money and to donating my hair when it gets longer (to Locks for Life) I want to do this so you can live your life ordinarily like all the other children do."* Such generous action shows the impact of positive teacher role modeling after Mrs Gina Hatzilambrou shared her personal experiences of donating her hair last summer.

- "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!" has been the slogan in our first grade classrooms and helpful signs to help us remember not to be wasteful have been posted around our school. Now we are looking forward to a special puppet show by our first graders on November 7th!
- Student safety: Just a reminder that parents must collect their children from teachers at the designated doors to the building. Our rule that students are not allowed to wander over to parked cars at the end of the day is for your child's safety.

Do remember that parental supervision is essential for students who stay to play in the enclosed green area after 4.00 p.m.

Thank you for continuing to drive with extreme caution at the beginning and end of the school day.

- November certainly promises to be a busy month with IOWA testing in grades 2,4 and 6; with the Art Competition on November 15th ; and with a grade 5 bake sale on November 20th to start our fundraising for the Helping Hands organization.
- Finally, I have designated one of the bulletin boards outside the office for Community News. Check it out for information from the Parents in Action group and leave any notices for display with Ms Pauline. You can find details of local events, activities etc. on the board to help newcomers.

ISA will be closed on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th October in recognition of our Greek National Holiday.

ENJOY THE BREAK!