

The Bear Essentials

Primary School Bulletin

Nov – Dec 2010

With only 6 weeks before our winter vacation, the Primary School is buzzing with activity . . . we look forward to the special Thanksgiving lunch next week, our Parent in Action Group is working hard to prepare for the Christmas Bazaar, students are rehearsing with Ms Maria for our annual Winter Show and Melina's Kindergarten students are learning lots of new songs for their special show on December 12th!

Busy days for all of us, so please check the diary dates below as some events have been changed due to closure for elections. If your family is leaving before school closes on the 22nd December, please be kind enough to let us know to assist our end of trimester planning.

- **Congratulations are in order for Ms Ellie and her EAL student** reporters who worked so diligently to publish our school magazine, a copy of which is attached for each family. Great reporting by all involved!
- **Mrs Tagas is continuing our grade 5 tradition of working with refugee children through the Helping Hands organization.** We will be buying hats and scarves with the money we raised last year as part of our support program, but other donations of items listed on their newsletter can be dropped off at school before November 26th. This week grade 5 and 6 students attended a presentation by a representative from Helping Hands and heard many true stories of the life faced by refugees here in Greece. They are ready to take up the challenge of making a small difference to the life of a refugee child. So let's count our many blessings and do our best to support them! In the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."
- Once again, I will be sending our donation to London's Great Ormond Street Hospital after our **Jeans for Genes Day in October. We raised 375 euro** thanks to the help of our Student Council and your generous participation!
- Good luck to the students from the Primary School who will participate in the Indian Embassy On-the-Spot Art Contest hosted by St Catherine's School. Well done, to our youngsters who will take advantage of a community event and earn house points for their commitment!
- The Lost and Found basket is brimful of clothing again – many items unlabelled. Please check the basket and label your child's clothing. Thank you.

Diary Dates through to 22nd December 2010

- Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th November: Photo Days. All students must be wearing the full school uniform (not the PE uniform) for class pictures.

- November 17th: ISA will be closed for students. Faculty will be attending an In-Service workshop. Please note that Melina's Jnr and Melina's will also be closed.
 - Friday 19th November: new date for our Read-In for grades 4 – 6 to celebrate the end of Readathon month. We raised about 250 euro to send to the Roald Dahl foundation – donations are still being accepted. Thanks to the commission we receive as a school from Baker Books, we are looking forward to some more exciting new titles in our Library. Many thanks to Mrs Demopoulos for providing the right ingredients for happy readers!
 - Tuesday 23rd November: Parent group meeting at 2.15 p.m. It was rewarding to know that so many parents attend our Parent Group meetings. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss psycho-educational and parenting issues primarily targeted at the younger ages. Any parent of ISA is more than welcome to attend the presentation by Dr Gina Thanopoulou and Ms Myrto Kogevina on "Ways to help your child become independent."
 - Wednesday 24th November: Thanksgiving lunch – optional
 - Saturday 27th November: Christmas Bazaar
 - Tuesday 7th December: Under 11's soccer match – details from Mr Leonidas
 - Friday 10th December: Grade 2 will be inviting their parents to a Poetry Reading at 2.15 p.m.
 - Sunday 12th December: Kindergarten Christmas celebration for our younger students and their families at Kifissia Town Hall.
 - Wednesday 15th December: Parent Teacher Conferences by appointment - no classes for students at ISA Primary or at Melina's Jnr and Melina's. You will soon receive details of your appointment times.
 - Friday 17th December: Primary School Winter Shows in the ISA Theater at 11.00 a.m. for parents of grade 1 – 3 students and at 2.00 p.m. for parents of students in grades 4 – 6.
 - Wednesday 22nd December: Free Tag Day. Classes end at 3.50 p.m.
- **Melina's Jnr and Melina's re-open on Monday 3rd January, 2011**
- January 6th is a Epiphany – a Greek holiday**
- **Primary School re-opens on Monday January 10th, 2011**

Our annual NEARLY NEW SALE is booked for late January, so bring those books, toys, games and unwanted items for us to sell. They can be dropped off at any time now or after the holidays with Ms Pauline. Also, please keep your used stamps from your Christmas mail and send them to school after the holidays. I send them to UK to Hearing Dogs for The Deaf.

