

# The Bear Essentials

## Primary School Bulletin

Nov – Dec 2011

With just over 20 teaching days left before our winter vacation, the Primary School is a busy place . . . we look forward to the special Thanksgiving lunch next week, our students have begun rehearsing with Ms Maria for our annual Winter Show and Melina's Kindergarten students are learning lots of new songs for their special shows at the Town Hall on December 11<sup>th</sup>! On the professional side, we eagerly await the visiting team from Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools who will be with us from November 28<sup>th</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup>.

These are busy days for all of us, so please check the diary dates carefully. The date of the Winter Show has changed and will now take place earlier than previously planned, on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. If your family is leaving before school closes on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, please be kind enough to let us know to assist our end of trimester planning.

- **Special Sports News: ISA participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> Athens Classic Marathon** on Sunday Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. Despite unpleasant weather conditions, a number of ISA students and faculty completed the race! We are proud to announce that Mr. Leonidas Valvis, Ms. Zerva, Mr. Duncan Barrable and Ms. Afrodite Kollias completed the 42 km 195 meter Marathon Race. [Ms. Sophia Ioakimidou ran the 10km race and she also supported the Special Olympics Team.](#) Congratulations to the 11<sup>th</sup> graders who ran the 5km race and at the same time raised money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. And congratulations also to staff who joined the students in the 5km race; Ms. Haniotakis, Ms. Metaxa, Ms. Pauline Traka and Mr. Trakas for their great spirit and special effort! Thanks also to all the ISA students who volunteered at the race. We are all proud of you! [You can find all the news and pictures under the ISA utube.](#)
- **Many thanks go to Emilea and Mrs Vazeos and her helpers for all the work involved with our annual Thanksgiving Lunch.** If you have a special cultural celebration you would like to share with us, please let me know so it can be included in our events calendar. In an international school like ours, it is very important not only to maintain our own cultural celebrations, but also to share those with friends.
- **All food donations for the Thanksgiving Appeal can be dropped off to Ms Pauline.** Even in these difficult times in Greece, let's count our many blessings. 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!
- **Thanks go to the students who participated in the On-the-Spot Art Contest** hosted by St Catherine's School. Well done, to our youngsters who take advantage of a community event and earn house points for their commitment!
- Now that the weather has finally become colder and children will be wearing sweaters and jackets, **this is a good time to remind you that names are required on all items of clothing** – already our Lost and Found box is full of unclaimed clothing. Please check the basket and label your child's clothing. **Students must also wear full school uniform every day.** Tights and socks may be blue or white only.

## **Diary Dates through to 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

- November 17<sup>th</sup>: ISA will be closed for students. Faculty will be attending an In-Service workshop in preparation for the Accreditation visit. Please note that the 3 Kindergartens will also be closed.
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup>: Grade 3 will visit Tasty Foods. Grade 2 parents are invited to our assembly at 3.00 p.m. to celebrate their child's learning from the Human Body unit.
- Monday November 21<sup>st</sup>: Grade 4 factory production line visit arranged by Mr Normann
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November: Thanksgiving lunch – optional.
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Grade 3 visit to the Planetarium.
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December: Parent group meeting at 2.15 p.m. 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 Athina on "Ways to help your child become independent."
- Weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December: Kindergarten Christmas celebrations for our younger students and their families.
- Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Parent Teacher Conferences by appointment - no classes for students at ISA campus in grades 1 – 12. You will soon receive details of your appointment times.
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Grade 1 visit to Playmobile Fun Park
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> December: Free Tag Day. Classes end at 3.45 p.m.

**Melina's Kindergartens re-open on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2012**

**January 6<sup>th</sup> is Epiphany – a Greek holiday**

**Primary School re-opens on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012**