

DATES FOR YOUR CALANDER

Wednesday January 18th :
Grade 6 Fieldtrip

Friday January 20th:
Grade 4 Fieldtrip

Saturday January 21st:
Open Day

January 23rd - 27th:
Book Week

Tuesday January 24th at
9:15 am: Grade 1 Parent
workshop on Reading &
Writing

Wednesday January 25th:
Grade 3 Fieldtrip

Wednesday January 25th at
9:15 am: Grade 2 Parent
workshop on Reading &
Writing

Friday January 27th:
Transition & Grade 2 Field-
trip

January 31st:
Parent Class Rep Meeting

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13 JANUARY 2012

NEWSLETTER N . 10

Saturday January 21st - Open Day

Since we have received many requests for an Open Day to be held on a non-working day, the next Open Day is set for Saturday, January 21st and will be a bit different from our usual Open Days.

In order for this Open Day to be a success, I ask your kind assistance. A school without children is just a building, therefore the presence (in shifts) of the students is very important. The teachers will also be present in three shifts. There won't be regular lessons, the children will be urged to play, to read and to take part in the didactic games in the classrooms or the library. The intention is to have students and parents as promoters and guides in, and around, the school. A brunch will be organized from 12:00 pm onwards to keep things happy and informal. Based on our experience last year, I can say that this is a pleasant experience for all - children and families, old and new. Last year there was a spontaneous community atmosphere, and many fathers came to school with their children and were able to take part in their daily school life. Our brunch together was a lively and joyful experience for everyone.

I ask that you please let me know if you are willing to participate, specifying what hour you prefer. More detailed information regarding the day is available on the form that is attached to the newsletter as well as placed in the children's diaries. Please fill it in and return it to Ms. Paola by this coming Tuesday, January 17th, so that we may best organize the participation.

Welcome and Congratulations!

After returning from winter vacation, we welcomed 4 new students: Alessandra in Kinder, Ethan in Grade 1, Catherine in Grade 2 and Aurora in Grade 4. A warm welcome to our school community to the Beretta and De Ponti families!

Heartfelt congratulations go to the Menin, Pedalà and Gianadda-Gow families on the joyful births of Gabriele, whose big brother Richard is in Kinder, and Carlotta, whose brother Andrea in grade 2 and Drew, whose brother Cameron is in Transition.

To all of you my most sincere wishes for a peaceful new year, which is full of pleasant surprises and encounters.



Evaluations

The teachers have begun the rigorous process of evaluating the levels of learning at the end of the semester that will be noted in the reports. During the year the learning processes are monitored and the results are noted on tables or in notes. At the end of the semester the overall evaluation based on the obtaining of set goals for the various subjects are expressed. I meet with the teachers during the four month evaluation period in order to be kept up to date on the progress of each student and I read all the evaluations. The reports of the Early Years, Elementary and Middle School students will be given to the families on February 17th.

Start of new Units of Inquiry

With the new semester, all the Early Years and Elementary classes have begun a new Unit of Inquiry, having completed two of them thus far. You will receive a summary sheet from the teachers of the knowledge and abilities that will be developed over the next 6 weeks. Here below I have summarized the topics of the Units by class so that you can help your children to find as many links as possible to everyday life. The real questions that we want to find answers to come from the curiosity to learn about what we see around us, in real life, and not from school books and papers.

K: There are different light sources that we can use to experience our world

T: Stories help us to learn and develop our imagination

Gr.1: We use our creativity to express ourselves when we celebrate

Gr.2: Story telling is a form of self expression that had different purposes

Gr.3: Art is an expression of human thoughts and emotions and is open interpretation

Gr.4: Myths, legends, and folktales give us insight into cultures and elements of history

Gr.5: We express our thoughts and feelings through the performing arts

Gr.6: Beliefs and values are expressed in different ways with many common elements

Cross-class Maths

We would like to inform you of our new Math initiative that will begin January 16th for our students in Grades 3-6. In our efforts to continue developing our students in maths, we will be implementing a cross-age learning program. Cross-age learning is a meaningful and powerful approach for stimulating students' development both academically and socially.

The purpose of the cross-age learning in mathematics is to give our students who either need extension or extra support an opportunity to focus on their skills with other school peers. Students in need of extra support will be in a booster group, while students who are extending will go to the year above (please note that Gr.6 students will not be moving to middle school; instead they will be challenged as part of the extension group). It is our philosophy not to demote students. The cross-age learning program will not impact the grade level math curriculum. Instead, it is a way to address the individual needs of our students.

- The sessions will be held two days a week lasting 50 minutes.
- The students are divided into 4 classes with the maximum of 16 per class.



We look forward to this great initiative. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak to your child's classroom teacher or the PYP Coordinator.

Workshops for Grade 1 & Grade 2 Parents

The learning process of reading and writing is one of the most fascinating moments of school life of children. For parents it is very important to understand the different phases and the methods used by the teacher so as to support their children. Following on the sessions which were held in October, the Grade 1 and 2 teachers will hold their second workshop dedicated to the methods of reading and writing.

Ms. Boocock's G1 workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 24th at 9:15 am in her classroom.

Ms. Block's G2 workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 25th at 9:15 am in her classroom .

Ski Course & After-school activities

Some parents have asked me if this year we will organize the ski course. It is our intention to propose, once again, an initiative that has had great success in recent years, thanks to one of our dads, Mr. Saldarini Stiamo.

We're just waiting for the gift of some snow!

In the coming weeks you will receive information regarding the after-school activities proposed during the second term and that will start in February. We would like to continue with those already up and running as well as add a few others such as judo, horse riding, and golf.



Ski Week Proposal

An interesting proposal for Ski Week has been brought to my attention by a member of our community. If you have not planned anything for the ski week of February, or if you are looking for a safe place to send your kids to ski, please read the attached proposal from Tamaro Sport. This will be the 36th edition of experience which has historically raised interest among international families. For inquiries or questions, please call Mr. Sig. Orlando Noschese, who is the grandfather of Mariachiara-G2 and Francesca- K. His number is 3356040623.

I thank you all for any help you can give us on Open Day and send you my best regards.

Emanuela Ferloni

Principal

International School of Como