

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another school term, we can look forward to long days of warm sunny weather and lots of outdoor activities. Unfortunately it is also time for school and Cambridge examinations, so much work is still to be done indoors before the summer holidays come around. Year 11 students have already taken IGCSE oral examinations in English, French, Spanish and German this week. On 6th May the main IGCSE and A Level exams start and run for 5 weeks into June. Good luck to all our hard working senior students as they prepare for these very challenging and important exams.

In March we had a terrific Hollywood Ball with around 90 students from CIS and other international schools enjoying an impressive dance exhibition by Johnny Perfecto and his dance troupe and then themselves dancing the night away. Photos from the event will be on the school website very soon—there are just so many of them it is difficult to choose!

Have a relaxing Easter break and see you all back at school on Wednesday 23rd April.

Peter Radoja

World Autism Awareness Day

Each year on April 2nd the world becomes a little bit bluer than usual. Whether it is a brooch in a buttonhole or Bratislava castle all alight with blue, these things are all trying to convey the same message - that we are not indifferent to this topic, and would like to enhance the awareness of autism in our community.

Blue colour was chosen as a symbol of this day because it represents communication, which is one out of three problematic things for people with autism spectrum disorder.

Our school joined this initiative as well, we talked about autism at one of our assemblies, and the children as well as our teachers dressed in blue on Tuesday.



Upcoming events

7.5.2014 | Science day

A day of diverse scientific fun activities for our Primary students.



12.5.-16.5.2014 | Individual parents meetings

We will hold individual parents meetings in both the Primary and Secondary school during the third week of May. You will have a chance to speak about your child and all the subjects individually.

More information about upcoming events to follow.

Hviezdoslavov Kubín

We held a school round of the Slovak poetry and prose competition Hviezdoslavov Kubín for our older students on Wednesday, March 5th. All the students came well prepared which didn't make the decision-making process very easy. These are the results:

II. category (Year 5, 6, 7) - Poetry

1st place - Bibiana Pogány (Y5H)

2nd place - Šimon Žilák (Y5H)

3rd place - Jakub Ujházy (Y7T)

II. category (Year 5, 6, 7) - Prose

1st place - Nela Bobáková (Y7T)

2nd place - Alexandra Fehérová (Y5H), Laura Mihálekóvá (Y7T)

3rd place - Petra Krišková (Y5H)

All of the students who were in first place in their categories attended a **district round** of the competition on Thursday, April 3rd. They were very successful, and out of 70 entrants two of our students were placed in the top three. Bibiana Ondrejková was 3rd and Teodora Kljajić finished 2nd and will represent the school in the **regional round** soon.

Congratulations to all of you. Keep up the good work ☺

III. category (Year 8, 9) - Poetry

1st place - Nina Zmajkovičová (Y8H)

2nd place - Natália Kubalová (Y9S)

3rd place - Adriana Futejová (Y8H)

III. category (Year 8, 9) - Prose

1st place - Flóra Antónia Somogyi (Y8H), Teodora Kljajić (Y9S)

2nd place - Michal Bobák (Y9S)

3rd place - Veronika Kružliaková (Y9S)



Book week in CIS (April 28th-30th 2014)

We are still busy preparing our book week with various activities supporting children reading. We have engaged the whole school including our teachers and would like to invite you to participate as well:

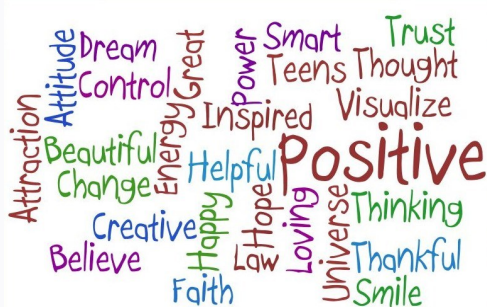


- Do you have a **photograph** of yourself reading in an unusual place? Bring or email it to school by Monday April 28th. The person (student, teacher or parent) reading in the most unusual place will win a prize ☺.
 - Parents and all students (including pre-school children) are invited to attend our **Book Fair** on Tuesday, April 29th from 15:30 to 17:00. All students received a €1.50 token towards a book of their choice.
 - All the children are invited to create an **alternative book cover** and submit it to the reception by April 29th.
 - Students, Parents and Teachers can complete a leaf for our school **book tree**. Collect a leaf from reception and write the title of the book that you're reading at the moment or a book that you have enjoyed reading and then attach it to the tree.
 - Each day during the week a bell will be rung telling everyone (students and teachers) to stop what they are doing and **read their own book** independently for 15 minutes.
- Max Mako of Year 7 won a voucher in the Hollywood ball raffle entitling him to ring the bell at his will. He'll surely make the most of it! ☺

Guess the Teacher Competition has already started, and you can find these with several more pictures in the school lobby. It seems that the children will have to think hard to unravel who the teacher hiding behind each book is. Quick tip: if you are helpless, look for clues on the photos such as the book cover, clothes, accessories... ☺



A positive attitude



Throughout my career as a teacher of German language I have met many people / students, who did

not like learning German. Not because they would have anything against Germany or Germans. It was simply because German is very much about sticking to the rules and using them without much space for improvisation. This is the main reason why students so often prefer English or other language.

In our school in general we want our students to view learning positively and I would like to take it a bit further. I want to bring my students to the point where they would say: "I think German

is not that bad. It is actually fun to learn." Of course I know it is going to take a long time but I can already see some results in our youngest students from Year 4. Most of them already say it is fun to learn German. This pleases me very much and I hope the other groups can be taught the same. I believe that a positive attitude makes all learning much easier.

I know that people have different talents and not all of us have a talent for learning foreign languages. However all of us can learn a foreign language to such a level that we can communicate different information and understand what people are trying to tell us. It is not about flawless grammar. It is about communication and with communication comes general understanding and tolerance nowadays so much needed in the whole world.

(Elena Turoňová, Teacher of German)

Kindergarten

School life in our Kindergarten during March was all connected to books, of course ☺ We learned about famous authors, we played with fairy tales, explored different genres, and we even made up our own very first stories. In connection to this great topic we welcomed an interactive performance of Cinderella when everybody had a chance to act out their part.

Thanks to our parents we also visited a bookstore where we learned even more via various competitions and workshops. Best of all, however, was our monthly project called "parents reading". In cooperation with parents we tried to support and develop a positive attitude of children toward books, reading and literature in general.

We would like to thank to all the parents who took the opportunity and come to read for us. It was a great experience and big fun ☺.

(Helena Molnárová, Head of Kindergarten)



Your children in action

Primary Assembly

Year 5 held an assembly called Angry Birds... on Wire. A few weeks ago they watched a short animated film where none of the characters speak. The children decided to give those characters a voice and wrote plays scripts. It was actually their idea to share this story with the rest of the school because it teaches us a valuable lesson.

It tells us that we should always be friendly with others even if they look or think different to us; we should never ever laugh at them because we never know who will be laughing last.

(Edita Harrison, Year 5H Class Teacher)



Year 3W presented an assembly to motivate the primary group until the end of the year. We told everyone that if they try hard, they can achieve anything. Hopefully, the assembly inspired both children and teachers to make the most of the remaining months in school.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)



In **Year 3M**, we spent two weeks on Greek Mythology. We read three stories and talked about them in detail. Then in three teams, we made our posters of the stories. It was hard and long, but we did it! We would be very happy if you take a look at our display board and enjoy the stories as well as the fantastic works of art.

(Masoud Motlagh, Year 3M Class Teacher)



Year 3W have been learning how to describe settings. We decided to have a 'beach day' because the sun was out but we can't go to a beach in Slovakia. We mixed cocktails and described the taste using adjectives and similes. We created, touched and described our own sand and sea water.

We relaxed under a video of the waves on a beach in Hawaii. It was bliss! The children have now begun writing sensory descriptions based on these experiences.

Our Welsh blog partners Maindee school, sent our class a rugby ball. So I showed them how to play touch rugby. Karina is bound to be the next rugby superstar with an amazing try in the corner!

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)



In science **Year 4S** have started a new topic – sound. Pupils completed a range of experiments to find out how sound is created for example hitting a drum when it is covered in rice, hitting a triangle under water and putting their hands on the speakers to see what they can feel when music is played.

Pupils found out that all sounds result from vibrations. They could see this in the waves made in the water and from the rice jumping on the drum.

Pupils have also been able to explain how to change the volume and pitch in different instruments. Last week pupils made string telephones to test how sound can travel in different materials.

(Faye Smith, Year 4S Class Teacher)



In History **Year 5H** children were learning about World War II. When looking at the Blitz, they found out about different types of shelters people used to protect themselves.

In the photos you can see them making models of Anderson shelters. It was a messy but also a very exciting project which ended with an exhibition for the other classes and teachers.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable project which allowed children to improve their tactile skills and also increase their creativity.

(Edita Harrison, Year 5H Class Teacher)



Secondary Assembly

We had a visit all the way from Switzerland on Monday, March 24th. Two delegates from Laureate Hospitality Education, came to CIS and talked about opportunities for future development of our Secondary students in the field of hospitality, tourism, event, sports and entertainment management.



hospitality management institutions and has got campuses in Switzerland and United Kingdom,

Spain, China, USA and Blue Mountains in Australia. Our children found the presentation very interesting, and asked a lot of questions, e.g. if there is a possibility to study in French, or if they offer par-

This institution provides a global network of

ticular study programmes, such as Art culinary.



Declan Hayes, our Irish teacher held a presentation on **St. Patrick's Day** in our Secondary assembly, and shared more about his home country with us.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on the 17th March and is the national holiday of Ireland. The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, as well as a celebration of Irish heritage and culture.

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. St Patrick is said to have used the shamrock, a three-leaved plant, to explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish as he brought Christianity to the island. There are many legendary stories attached to St. Patrick's time in Ireland. The most famous legend is that he hunted all the snakes out of Ireland.

The day is celebrated all over the world because of the large Irish diaspora living outside Ireland, estimated to be around 70 million people due to centuries of emigration. Celebrations take the form of parades, street entertainment, concerts, fancy dress parties, Irish sporting championship deciders and cultural events.

On St. Patrick's Day it is customary to wear shamrocks and green clothing or accessories (the "wearing of the green"). In countries like America, if you don't wear green, it is common that you can be pinched as a punishment 😊.



During a number of lessons spread out over term 2, **Year 7** students constructed volcano models out of paper mache, chicken wire and a large plastic bottle. The large plastic bottle acted as the main vent & magma chamber. The unit of work on Plate Tectonics inspired this construction of a volcano model. Once the models were completed, the students recreated a volcanic eruption. They did this in two different ways;

- 1) Some students mixed baking soda, vinegar & red dye in the magma chamber of the model to recreate a volcanic eruption.
- 2) Other students poured coca cola into the magma chamber and then pop into Mentos sweets to recreate an eruption.

Both options worked well. Overall, the students really enjoyed making the models and then erupting them outside.

(Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History)



Features



Take a look at an interview with our new Music teacher, Mária Urbanová. Mária, welcome to our CIS family! ☺

Which places have you been to (and what did you do there)?

I have been to many interesting places but I prefer English speaking countries. During my university studies I was working for two summers in the USA, Virginia Beach, VA. I can say that those summers were my best summers ever ☺. I have been to New York City and Washington D.C. as well, and its really hard to decide what my favourite American city is because I find them all very exciting and interesting. I have also visited Toronto and Hamilton in Canada. My absolute favourite city is London where I lived almost two years.

What jobs have you done and whereabouts?

I have been working in education since I finished university. After my graduation I taught Music at Primary school and English at secondary school in Bratislava. I still felt I was missing something. I decided to go to London two years ago and I found out that I was missing this experience. I started working as a trainee teacher in a café for disabled trainees and trainees with special needs. Later I managed to work at secondary school as a teaching assistant. I enjoyed 1:1 lessons and lessons in the mainstream classes as well.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I always wanted to work with children, teach them, help them because I really like them, no matter how old they are. But my biggest motivation was my younger brother who has special needs.

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy activities linked to music such as listening, playing the piano and I love zumba, I am addicted to it ☺. And the last but not least are precious moments spent with my family.

Children's Corner

Here we are again with a new task for you—find out who this young lady on the photo is. Please submit your answers to your class teachers by **Friday, April 25st**.

The correct answer from the previous newsletter was little Ms Nicki is sitting in the first row, 4th seat from the right. Congratulations to the winners, and to the rest of you—dont worry, you still have plenty opportunities to win a nice prize ☺.

