

## Dear Parents,

As 2013 comes to an end, we can reflect back on the successes of the year. These have included the consolidation of the school onto the Úprkova site; the completion of many building projects at Úprkova and major progress on the sports complex and laboratory; successful student events including the Mafia Ball, Art and Music afternoon, Christmas production; and of course great progress made by all students in their studies and general development. Our staff and student bodies have expanded over the year including with the addition of scholarship students into the senior years. The school is becoming better known across Bratislava and many enquiries and enrolments have already been received for the next 2014/15 school year which begins in September.

However, this newsletter is not to dwell on the year past but to celebrate the month of December and its achievements; enjoy the pictures which follow. I would also like to say 'many, many thanks' to the students and staff who worked so hard to present the delightful entertainment Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, DVDs of which will be available soon.

Oh and yes, Happy New Year!

Peter Radoja



Mafia Ball



Art and Music afternoon



Christmas production





# Cambridge International School Bratislava

Newsletter

December was busy with preparations for our **Christmas Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** production. All the students practiced hard, learned their lines and had a lot of fun singing the songs from the musical.

We had a **working day** on the first Saturday of the month. Secondary students playing the main characters met together with Ms Smith and Mr Greene to polish their acting. Some of the teachers, parents as well as students helped to prepare the sets for the musical and painted the scenery like busy bees. In addition, our staff took a first aid course on the same day.

Here are some photos from the rehearsals and preparations:





# Cambridge International School Bratislava

Newsletter





## Mikuláš



We had a special visitor on December 6<sup>th</sup>; he came in red clothes and hat carrying a big satchel full of chocolate figures for our children. They all got prepared for his arrival by practicing songs and poems to get a sweet treat, and had a nice time presenting them.





### Bake sale



Our **Year 8** students organised a **bake sale** to raise money to support a pet shelter. The fact that the cakes were really delicious was only supported by the fact that they got sold out in few minutes. ☺



### Trips

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December **Year 9** and **Year 11** went to Vienna. This trip was a part of German language learning. All students were excited about going to Vienna to see different places. Their teachers: Miss Elena Turonova, Miss Lucia Paukova and Miss Zuzana Kralovicova went with them as pedagogical chaperones.

Our first stop was the Schonbrunn palace, the summer residence of kings and queens of the Habsburg monarchy. We attended a tour with the guide in German. I called it a great success because many of the students understood most of the presentation and only some of them said they did not understand much.

As a treat, students visited the traditional Christmas market situated in front of the Vienna Town Hall called Kristkindlmarkt. Together with their teachers, all students enjoyed shopping in the small Christmas shops; especially chocolate and Christmas decorations proved to be a successful product. We all also enjoyed travelling around Vienna with the public transport. As part of their education students had to listen for details in the underground as well as in the bus to know when and where to get off the train or bus.



As their teacher I was very proud of them because all of them showed the best behaviour and presented our school in the best light. It was a pleasure to take them to Vienna and I hope we are going to share more similar moments of mutual understanding and Christmas atmosphere.

(Elena Turoňová, Year 7T Class Teacher)





## Kindergarten

All the children as well as teachers focused their time and energy in December mostly on our annual Christmas performance. We all on both locations worked together as a community on one production. This year we got inspired by diversity of cultures and a wide range of feasts, traditions and customs over the world. Children learned through the performance story not only about Christmas but also about Yalda (in Iran), Pancha Gunapati (in India), Hannukah (in Israel), Kwaanza (in Africa), Soyal (in North America), Dong Zhi (in China), Maka Hiki (in Hawaii) and much more.

We all met on December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Puppet Theatre and were happy to show everything we had worked so hard on to our parents. We definitely had a great time and enjoyed it. ☺

In the name of our Kindergarten section we would like to thank all the parents for their trust and co-operation in 2013 and we wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2014. ☺

(Helena Molnárová, Head of Kindergarten)



## Primary assembly



**Y3W's** assembly about Christmas was humbling. The children showed how other, less fortunate children around the world will celebrate Christmas this year. The children took a brief look into typical lives of children in slums, at war or devastated by natural disasters. The aim of the assembly was to make students and staff realize how lucky they are.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)





### Your children in action



**Year 2G** have been learning about materials in Science. We looked at natural and man-made materials and then went for a walk in Horský Park to see what materials we could find. Then we collected some to add to our display in the classroom.

Nicola Gray (Year 2G Class Teacher)

“These are the second stories we have written. We have thought about them, developed the characters, the setting and the plot step by step. We read them to each other. And finally, we wrote them and decorated them. We hope you will enjoy them.”

(Masoud Motlagh, Year 3M Class Teacher)



**Year 3W** took part in a speaking and listening activity where they designed good questions and practised answers. Later, the class Skyped with a different 3W in Wales, a class which has child also speak Slovak amongst 7 other languages. The two classes enjoyed chatting and then sang each other a song before saying goodbye. The children felt like they were connecting with other children on a global scale.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)

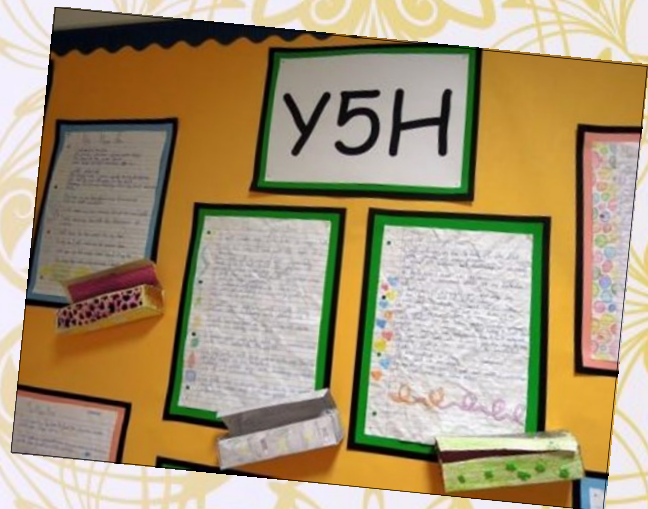






**Year 5H** children have been inspired by Kit Wright's poem 'The Magic Box'. This poem is about building a magic box out of the most special materials and putting the most precious things in it. The children tried to fit something that triggers all five senses into their magic boxes – favourite smells, sounds, feelings, views and tastes. Some of them also added their most precious memories if there was still any space left. Afterwards, they made and decorated card boxes to illustrate the poems. These poems have high emotional value and the children are very proud of them.

(Edita Harrison, Year 5H Class Teacher)



In Geography lessons **Year 6E** have been learning about mountains and in particular, the effect of the seasons on the mountains and the plants, animals and humans that live there. As part of this they have been making mountain models using wire, rags and Plaster of Paris. It is an ongoing project and not yet complete but they will continue with it next term.

(Judi Easton, Year 6E Class Teacher)





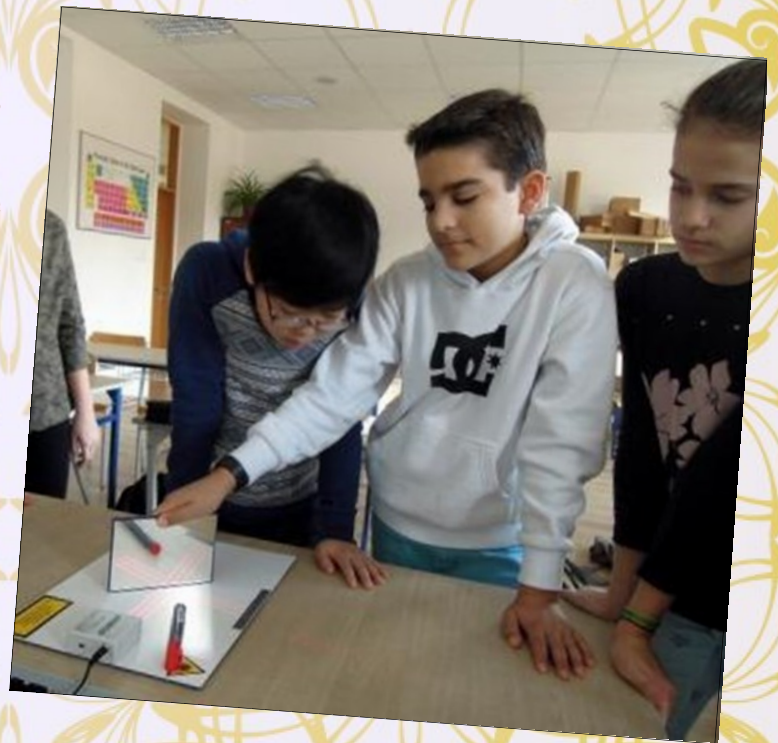


Here are the **Year 7S** in a Geography lesson with a model which shows how tsunamis can be caused by earthquake under the sea. Some of the students made the models as part of their assessment work on earthquakes and volcanoes.

(Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History)

**Year 8H** students are learning that light is travelling in a straight line and are trying to describe reflection of light at a plane surface using the law of reflection during physics classes.

(Mária Širníková, Teacher of Science)





### Features

Christmas special with some detailed answers about one of our Secondary teachers—Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History as well as our Year 8 Class Teacher:

#### **Which places have you been to?**

I've been to most exotic places like Thailand, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and Malaysia. I took a stroll on the beautiful beaches in Thailand, the water there is amazing because it's clear and warm, and you can explore the coral.

In Sri Lanka I visited Buddhist temples, tea plantations and a lot of historical places. I went to shark cage diving in South Africa and did numerous safaris to observe the wildlife. I also went to the tropical rain forest in Malaysia.

I've been to Wales and England as well, they are very picturesque countries, and people there are very friendly. Ireland is the best place on the planet though.

#### **Where would you like to go next and why?**

I would like to go to Croatia and do island hopping, because I've heard it's beautiful.

#### **What job other than teaching have you done?**

I lived in Kuwait for 4 years working as an educator. It is a very wealthy Muslim country with lots of malls, and I met many amazing expatriates there. I worked in insurance and I was very bad in that. I also had a job in a yoghurt factory putting yoghurt in boxes when I was 16.

#### **Why did you decide to become a teacher?**

I have a great passion for geography and I wanted to do work with it. History is amazing too; it is very interesting to learn about other people's lives.

#### **Why did you choose teaching History and Geography to the secondary students?**

I enjoy working with Secondary students very much, but it is very challenging at the same time. They raise very interesting points, I can share the passion for the subject, go on field trips, and have good discussions about more complex topics.





### What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy both playing and watching sports such as Gaelic football, football, and tennis in particular. I like going for hikes;

I've been hiking in Austria, Ireland, and plan to go to the Tatras (both Low and High). Besides that I like to go to the cinema from time to time, watch documentaries, and chat with my family.



### What can you tell us about Gaelic football?

I play in a Slovak Gaelic football club based here in Bratislava called the Shamrocks. Gaelic football is a sport which originates in Ireland. The sport can be said to be a mixture of soccer and basketball. The club competes against other European Gaelic football teams such as Vienna, Prague, Budapest and Munich for example.

I also ran a Gaelic football school club. At present we are only playing regular football. The students really enjoy it so there's no point in changing the sport. The students are too small to learn the game also so it would be likely lead to chaos. We might consider introducing the game later in the year if the students get bored of football.



**CAMBRIDGE**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**Cambridge International School**

Úprkova 3

811 04 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

**P: +421 2 2072 0679**

**M: +421 918 121 892**

**E: [school@cambridgeschool.eu](mailto:school@cambridgeschool.eu)**

