

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Newsletter for March.

Days are getting longer and the weather warmer—so now is the time for our annual ski trip. Have a great time all those of you who are going to Chopok for the week of 10th to 15th March. Take it easy and no broken legs—you are going to need them in proper working order for the final event of the month! That event is our School Ball which will take place on Friday 28th March and will have a Hollywood theme.

Up in the attic/3rd floor our new laboratory is complete and looks really cool in lime green and white—all that is missing are the new laboratory stools which we are waiting to be delivered.

The computer room next door has been designed and construction will start very soon, once the reception area is finished this week.

We have a large new room for English and Drama in the attic which will also be used as the examination centre when the Cambridge IGCSE and A Level exams start in May. So much progress and new facilities to look forward to.

Peter Radoja



Upcoming events



28.3.2014 19:00—00:00 | School ball

The school will stay alight till late evening on the last Friday in March. The decorations, food, programme and the whole atmosphere will be in Hollywood style.

Our Year 9 and Year 11 students are already busy with planning and preparations of the ball for the Secondary School, and we are all excited and looking forward to this event. ☺

11.4.2014 | Easter workshops

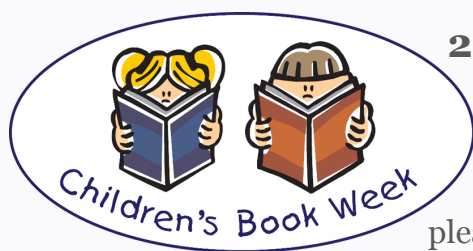
The children will enjoy Easter themed activities and games on the last day of school before the holidays. They will have a chance to engage their creativity and make a nicely decorated Easter egg. Rumour is that some of the eggs might be hiding somewhere around the school, so let's start the Easter egg hunt and find them all! ☺



14.4.-22.4.2014 | Easter holidays

The school term ends on Friday, April 11th at 13:30. Enjoy the holidays, and relax so you can start school full of enthusiasm after the break. ☺

We will be expecting all the children to come back on Wednesday, April 23rd at 08:30.



28.-30.4.2014 | Book week

We will be celebrating books, authors and literature over a few days here at CIS. The aim is to encourage children to enjoy reading for pleasure, explore libraries and bookshops, and perhaps even start writing themselves.

We will introduce them to new titles they don't know yet but might like, and help them find out what their classmates read while having a lot of fun at the same time. The children can look forward to many thematic fun activities, competitions with prizes, and a book fair.

More information about upcoming events to follow.



Valentine's Day

Year 6 were responsible for the Primary school assembly on February 14th. The children worked hard to learn some limericks and had fun developing their acting skills to deliver excellent performances. Miss Judi was very proud of them and they have received many compliments from both teachers and students about how much they enjoyed learning about St Valentine and listening to the amusing limericks that sometimes appear in Valentine cards. At the end of the assembly everyone took a heart and on it was an instruction such as 'give someone a hug' or 'say something nice to someone'. Miss Judi had reports back from many of the teachers that this was being done all around the school during the day, so we really were a school full of love today – even more than usual!

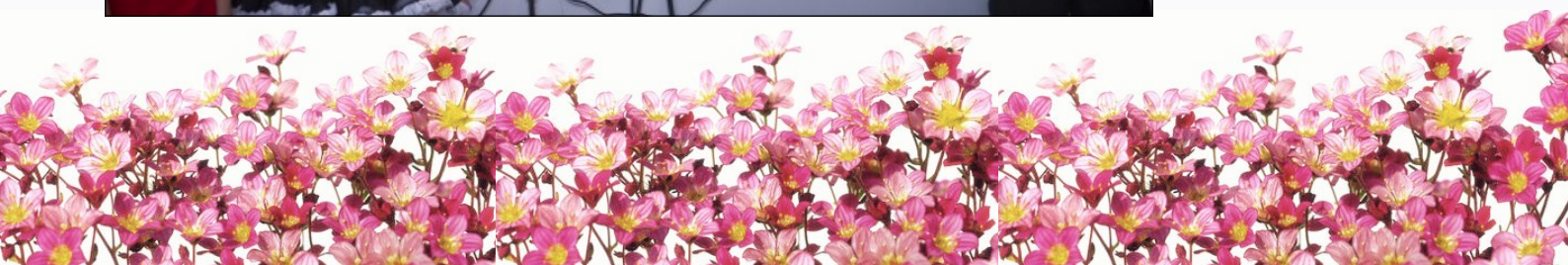


Year 6 also had the job of delivering the **Valentine cards** that had been placed in the post box in reception. They spent their lunch break sorting and delivering them to the correct classes. This was not an easy task as many of them were so anonymous that the sender had forgotten to say who the card was for! However, the children did their best and after a bit of detective work, most of the cards were delivered to the lucky recipients.

(Judi Easton, Year 6 Class Teacher)

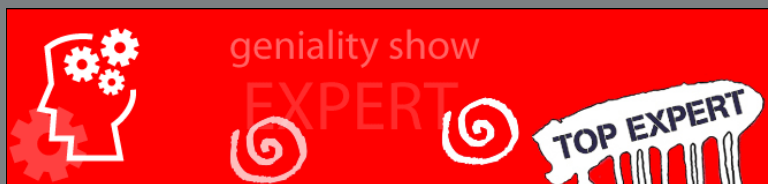
Check out the love in the air on some of the photos from the day ☺:





EXPERT geniality show competition

A group of our students from Year 7, 9 and 11 took part in EXPERT geniality show competition together with 8528 students from 408 schools all over Slovakia.



First 100 students were awarded diplomas and a title „Expert“. These are our experts ☺:

Viktória Fehérová – Expert on bits, bytes and technology and Expert on brain puzzles; Laura Miháleková – Expert on brain puzzles and Expert on the society then and now; Jakub Ujházy – Expert on bits, bytes and technology and Expert on nature's secrets (Category EXPERT 6).

Joe Sebastian Himi – Expert on Do you speak English?; Natália Kubalová – Expert on Do you speak English? (Category EXPERT 8).

Katarína Gazdová – Expert on the society then and now; Miriam Prívarová – Expert on Do you speak English? (Category EXPERT G12).

Congratulations to the successful participants, we are very proud of you! Let them be an example for the rest of our students to inspire them be more active and participate the next time.

Hviezdoslavov Kubín

The school round of Slovak prose and poetry competition Hviezdoslavov Kubín in Primary took place on February 14th. The students came prepared, memorised all their texts properly, dressed up nicely and recited like professionals.

We are proud to present you the winners in Poetry:

1. Alex Šebo (Year 4H)
2. Laura Križáková (Year 4S)
3. Janka Futejová (Year 4S)

Prose:

1. Somogyi Sophia (Year 4S)
2. Karolína Kmecová (Year 4H)
3. Ema Klima (Year 4H)



Congratulations to the winners and good luck to the others for the next time ☺



Bake sales



Our Secondary students from Year 7, 9 and 11 held bake sales during the month to raise money for the school ball as well as

their ski trip. All our students enjoyed the delicious cakes they brought a lot, and they were sold out really fast. Each class raised almost €100.



Kindergarten



February was a very active month for us again. In the beginning of the month our Reception and Year 1 class children attended the skiing course at Zochova chata hill. They practiced more winter sports and took a skating course in Ondrej Nepela stadium at the end of the



month. Honestly, we all got really tired, but also very happy after all. Of course, we did not forget about Valentine either. It was another big event of the month when the whole KG changed to the place full of princesses, super heroes, ballerinas, monsters, pirates and other funny creatures and did share love and peace at our Valentine carnival party ☺.

(Helena Molnárová, Head of Kindergarten)



Your children in action

Primary Assembly

Year 2S prepared a wonderful assembly about different nationalities in the class. The children dressed up in their typical national clothes and brought the culture of their country closer to us by reading in their own language, singing and dancing ☺. In addition, we could even sample some of the tasty national dishes prepared by their parents who we would like to thank a lot. They sent so much food in that Year 2s had a little feast in the class afterwards in order to eat it all.



Year 2G have been learning about light and dark in Science. We looked at different light sources, Diwali (festival of lights) and shadows. We went outside when it was sunny and drew each other's shadows in chalk on the floor.

(Nicki Gray, Year 2G Class Teacher)



In **3W** we have been studying friction and discovering its uses. We found out that cars and boats can go faster if there is less friction.

We tested this by designing and creating our own hovercrafts. We learned that by adding a layer of water or air, objects can move across surfaces more easily.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)

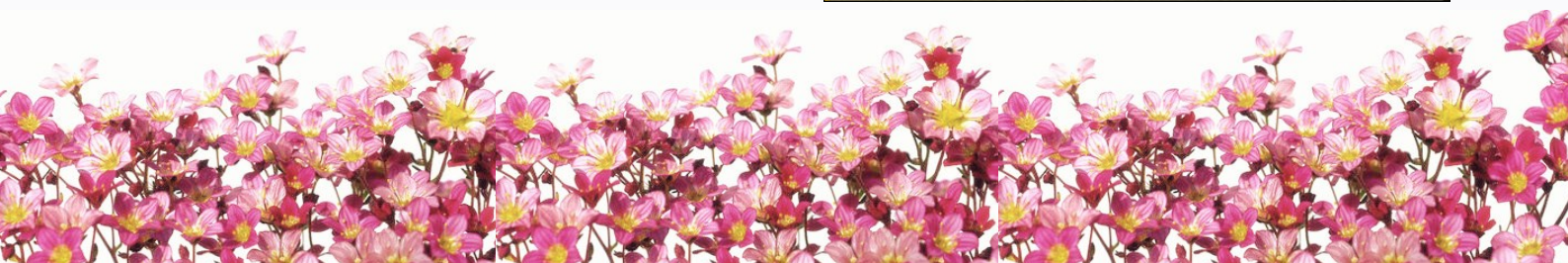


In extra English **Year 4** have been looking at different styles of poetry e.g. haikus, kennings and rhyming poetry. For our small poetry competition pupils designed their own poems in any style and theme they

wanted. Pupils finally decided how to set out their poems on the computer. Here is a picture of the winning poem by Riccardo in 4S.

In ICT lessons Year **4S** pupils prepared information posters about electricity (our current science topic). Pupils then presented these posters to the class. Here is an electricity safety poster made by Laura and Artur in 4S.

(Faye Smith, Year 4S Class Teacher)





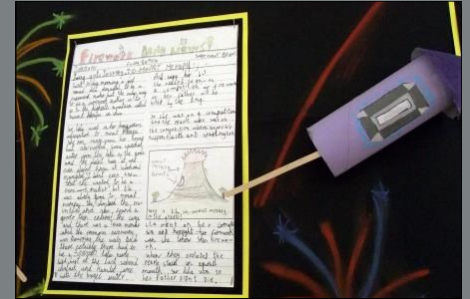
In **Year 4H** we have been hard at work on our fantasy fiction unit. We read the novel 'The Firework-Makers Daughter' by Phillip Pullman and then did lots of writing ourselves.

We wrote letters persuading someone that we

need to go on a journey. Then we designed and built our own fireworks using 3D shapes, and designed symmetrical logos for them which we learnt about in Maths.

Finally, we wrote newspaper reports describing the adventures of the main character Lila and her quest to become a firework maker.

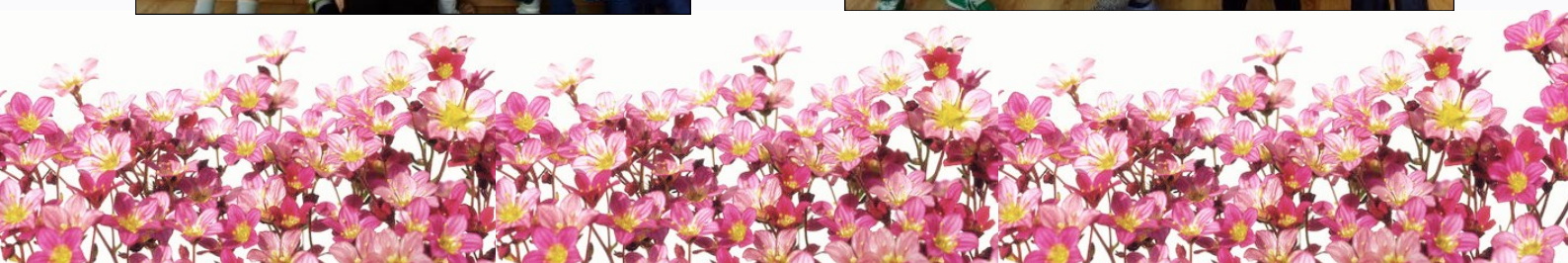
(Jason Harrison, Year 4H Class Teacher)



Freeze Frames

The children in **Year 5H** have been learning about play scripts and had to write one for a short animation. This included drama as well as creative writing. The unit started with watching the animation and brainstorming ideas in teams to create a storyline. Then they created freeze frames and speech bubbles (which you can see here), and finally they wrote and performed their own play scripts.

(Edita Harrison, Year 5H Class Teacher)





Some of the **Year 7** students prepared nice and very interesting presentations about different adaptations of plants and animals for their classmates. They also prepared "their own microorganisms" from hay – Protozoa, waited two weeks and observed moving microorganisms under the microscopes.

(Mária Sirniková, Teacher of Science and Chemistry)

At present the **Year 7** students are making Volcano models out of paper mache, chicken wire, old newspaper and a large plastic bottle to act as the main vent & magma chamber.

Once the models are complete, we are going to recreate a volcanic eruption by mixing baking soda, vinegar and red dye in the centre of the model.

(Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History)



This month, I've introduced new software to **Year 9** children - Sweet Home 3D. This beautiful software combines 2D and 3D world and allows children to develop a very important 3D perspective of 2D objects. They were fascinated and very interested in building and constructing their own living or dream houses. It took us only one lesson to go through essential parts of the software such as constructing walls, rooms, importing furniture, resize, rotate, elevate and colour it, creating new levels. On the pictures you can see some of the houses made by Year 9 students, and I think we have some potential architects here! ☺

(Eva Fendeková, Teacher of Mathematics and ICT)



This was the love poem that two of the **Year 11** students collaboratively wrote today. They were inspired by the British writer Carol Ann Duffy's poem 'Valentine', in which she talks of giving her valentine an onion in order to symbolise her love.

We explored Duffy's use of imagery and then the students took an everyday object from the 'lucky dip' bag and were posed the challenge of writing a love poem with their selected object central to their message. Students shared their poems and this one was voted 'the best'...



Measuring Love

Not a red rose or a chocolate love.

I give you a measuring meter.

A highlighted beginning,

A highlighted end.

Inch by inch we wade together

Through the sharp edges

And smooth sides of love.

I give you a meter

And centimetre by centimeter

My heart grows.

Endlessly.

By Timothy Weldon Walshe and Linda Hatas,
Year 11

(Claire Smith, Teacher of English Language and Literature)

Clubs

Take a look at what your children do after school in some of our clubs:

Design and Technology club

The Tuesday design technology club made a large heart poster for St. Valentine's Day. They made the heart out of collage, using an old resources catalogue which they ripped up and stuck on to good effect. They then cut out small paper hearts and large letters to complete the design. It was used to introduce the Year 6 assembly on St. Valentine's Day.

(Judi Easton, Year 6E Class Teacher)



In **Design and Technology club** we have designed and made our own bridges, buildings, parachutes, puppet peg people and made them from various materials. We have also completed various crafts such as valentines hearts, shapes from salt dough and Christmas cards.

(Nicky Gray, Year 2G Class Teacher)

German club

Students of Year 11 attend once a week the afterschool club German. They extend their knowledge and skills of German language in order to prepare themselves for IGCSE exams.

They enjoy various activities which help them with learning. All students work hard to improve their skills in reading comprehension, speaking, writing and listening.

(Elena Turoňová, Teacher of German)

Cooking club

In Thursday's cooking club pupils have cooked and prepared a range of tasty and healthy foods. Pupils have designed their own fruit smoothies and have made 'race cars' from bread, egg and cucumber. On Chinese New Year pupils prepared fortune cookies, writing their own messages inside. In this picture pupils prepared 'tiny teddy cars' using chocolate as glue and Smarties for the wheels.

(Faye Smith, Year 4S Class Teacher)



Features

Our Director **Mr Peter Radoja** agreed to tell us a little bit more than you can find about him on our school website. Find out how he decided to choose this profession and read more about his travels around the world below. Enjoy! ☺

What jobs have you done and whereabouts?

After my first university degree (a very long time ago), I went to South Africa where I worked in industry rising to become Senior Chemist (Ion-Exchange Resins) with a very large chemical manufacturing company. After four years in South Africa I returned to the UK and undertook a postgraduate teaching course, training as a teacher of Mathematics and Chemistry. During my time in South Africa, I was also able to visit Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Botswana and see a lot of African wildlife.

I taught for a number of years in the UK including as Head of Mathematics at a three hundred year old school which was established by and still belongs to the Moravian Church – so even then I had a link to this central European region.

At the age of 34 I set off back to Africa, with my wife and two young children to become Head of Bishop Mackenzie International Secondary School in Malawi. Whilst living in Malawi I was also able to add Zambia and Mozambique to my African countries visited and since then I have also been to Uganda and to Egypt; so quite a few different places in that vast continent.

I came to Slovakia 17 years ago as founding Director at the British International School for Nord



Anglia Education. Since then I have worked here, in Budapest (2 years), in Cambridge (1 year) in Seoul, Korea (6 months) and in many other locations on short projects such as Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, Oman, Penang in Malaysia, Singapore and India. These projects have all been either for Cambridge or for Nord Anglia, investigating the prospects for new international schools or providing training for teachers.



Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I enjoyed the challenge of working in industry but did not feel that spending my life in a laboratory or in an office would suit me. Teaching would enable me to help youngsters to gain qualifications and to develop as individuals and into independent adults and so for these (and many other) reasons, I decided to become a teacher – I have never regretted it!

How did you become a director?

I was encouraged by the Director of my last school in England to apply for senior positions in schools and that led me to Malawi and a career which, apart from the one year in Cambridge, has been as the Director of international schools ever since.

What do you do in your free time?

In the wintertime I read and watch TV. When the weather is good, I also work in the garden or walk my dog in the forest.

Why did you decide to come to Cambridge International School ?

I decided to come to Cambridge as I saw it as an exciting opportunity to help create a school that puts students at the heart of everything we do. Of course we have to teach content and examine progress, but it is the growth of the child and not just the acquisition of the content that is key for me. So for example, of far more importance than knowing is understanding, thinking for yourself, respecting yourself and others, recognising the difference between fact and opinion and finding solutions that are beneficial to all, not just the easy way out.



Children's Corner

Hello, we're back with a new task for our students—find Ms Nicki ☺ She is one of the girls on the picture, please write the row and number where she sits and give it to your class teachers by Monday, March 17th.

We received a lot of answers for the last month's task. The correct answer was Mr Wells, and we will draw the winners names at the assemblies this week.