

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Newsletter for November. When you read this it will be December and fast approaching the end of term. We have much to look forward to at school during the next three weeks and of course, the festivities of Christmas and New Year to enjoy with our families and friends to round off the month and year.

For CIS, the highlight of the coming month will be our school production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, which you can read about in this newsletter. This year for the first time we are trying a production involving acting and singing with contributions from students from throughout the school, integrated into one story. This is different from the past when classes have given their own presentations, albeit together on one evening. So we are crossing our fingers that it will be 'alright on the night' as they say in the showbiz world, and are looking forward to entertaining parents and friends at the Dom Kultúry in Dúbravka with this great fantasy tale.

Since I wrote last month, most of the work on the sports block has progressed inside the building and out of sight or without any discernable change when viewed from the school windows. However, both inside and out a lot has been done. Double glazed windows have now been constructed right around the building providing a better environment for workers inside, now

somewhat shielded from the cold weather outside. Whilst the top of the building looks not to have changed, it has. A thick layer of insulation



has been laid on the roof and this has all been covered with another layer of concrete.

Inside the main building, the rooms in the roof space of the new block have been readied for the installation of furniture which is being con-



structed offsite. It will be brought in during December and so in the New Year we will have a Chemistry Laboratory ready for use.

Peter Radoja



Upcoming events

2. & 5.12.2013 | Open days

We are running open days for any Year 1 parents from Funiversity or elsewhere on Monday and Thursday this week. They will have a chance to see the school, talk to our Year 2 teachers and observe their lessons.

6.12.2013 | St Nicholas day

A very special visitor will be dropping into classrooms at CIS on Friday. Mikuláš will be coming to speak to children and ask them about their plans for Christmas. Rumour is that any class that can impress him with a song or special poem will be given some delicious sweets. So get practising! ☺

7.12.2013 | Christmas production practice and work day

The school will be open on Saturday December 7th from 10:00 to 15:00 for a special rehearsal for the lead actors (Secondary students) and any parents, teachers or students who would like to help with preparing scenery and props for the Christmas production.

19.12.2013 16:30 | Christmas production

This year's school Christmas Production - **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** - will take place on Thursday December 19th at 16:30 at the Dom Kultúry Dúbravka and all parents are invited to attend to discover the secrets of the amazing giant chocolate factory run by the eccentric Willy Wonka and his singing staff of Oompa-Loompas.



We would like to invite you all to a small after performance party at the same place. We will talk, laugh, and enjoy the Christmasy atmosphere. There will be a professional cameraman shooting the performance, and the DVDs produced will be available for sale at a nominal cost.

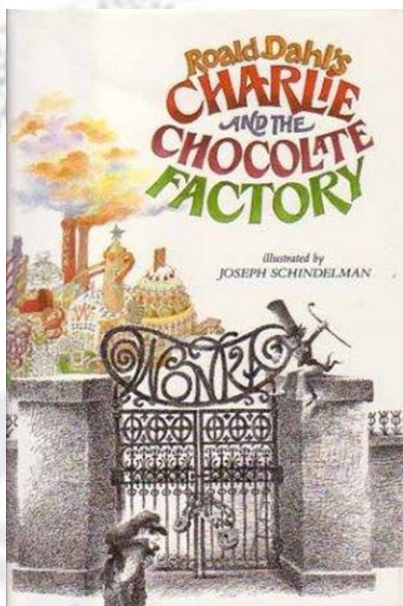
Auditions to find actors for the main roles were keenly contested among the Secondary school students and rehearsals are now well-underway. Primary school students have also been busy learning and rehearsing songs and dance routines for their crucial contribution to the performance.

20.12.2013 | Christmas parties in the classrooms

December 20th is the last day of school this year, and we will have small parties in each class to say goodbye before meeting back again in January 2014. All the children can bring small refreshments, talk and have a good time before leaving. The school day ends at 13:30.

More information about upcoming events to follow.

Christmas production preparations



Take a peak at our journey to recreate the world's most magnificent chocolate factory led by the most unusual candy maker. The inspiration comes from the whimsical world of Roald Dahl's book that is a dream of every child — a place where there is chocolate flowing in the river, lollipop flowers, sweet edible grass and trees, all assisted by cute singing Oompa Loompas, who are always in a good mood.

We presented the theme of the musical at one of our weekly assemblies to great excitement from all of the children. The roles have already been divided, with our Primary students playing the Oompa Loompas and squirrels, and Secondary students playing the main characters.

We held a **poster competition** for the best Charlie and the Chocolate Factory poster to advertise our school Christmas production. All the students had a chance to submit their creations, and the whole school voted for the best piece.

Many thanks to all participants; our students have proven how talented they are once again. And of course, congratulations to the winners — Bianca Čečetka from Year 4H and Ivana Prokešová from Year 9S! The posters are still displayed in the school's lobby, so go and check whether you agree with the results of the vote. ☺

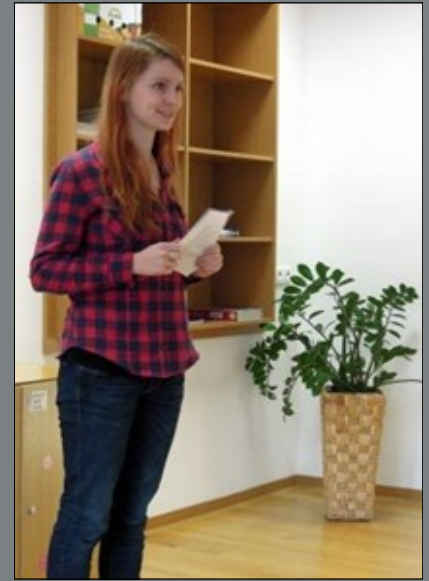


Claire Smith and Donal Greene led the **auditions** for the roles of the main characters — the narrator, the crazy factory owner Willy Wonka, the children who won the chocolate factory tour (Charlie Bucket, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee, Veruca Salt, Augustus Gloop) and their parents, as well as Grandpa Joe.

Mr Greene is directing the school production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. His job is to make sure that every actor knows exactly how they should portray their character, and to make the production as appealing and interesting as possible to the audience.



Some pictures from the auditions:





Our Year 9 students organized a **bake sale** to raise money for our Christmas production. They were very successful (undoubtedly owing to how tasty all the cakes were ☺) and collected money that partially covered the costs of the Oompa Loompa costumes.

Your children in action

Bratislava Model United Nations 2013 took place at the Pan-European University on 25th-27th October 2013 and three of our students, Dorota Gašparíková, Paulina Martinková and Nastaran A. Motlagh took part. In their roles, they represented various countries in the General Assembly of the Model United Nations, discussing different problems in the world.

The young ladies have said that it was definitely a great experience though very demanding. They had to work very hard to write policy statements and to participate in the conference for three days of very long hours.



After a couple of months of weekly visits to the swimming pool, Year 2 and Year 3 have finished their swimming course. Please bring PE kits on Mondays and Wednesdays from now on. We look forward to more swimming next year. ☺

Year 8 students are learning how the particle theory of matter can be used to explain the properties of solids, liquids and gases, including changes of state, and are exploring the forth state of matter – plasma, during chemistry classes.

(Mária Sirniková, Teacher of Science)





Year 2S prepared a short scene for their Primary assembly about a genie living in a bottle away from the whole world, not able to learn any foreign languages. Our children can learn English and other languages to communicate with each other, and they absorb knowledge like sponges. The students also told us how important it is to speak English all the time, so we can understand and respect each other.

Kindergarten

November was a month which brought us lots of changes, mostly in weather and temperature. Everything around started to prepare for winter like us, and thus autumn was our main focus in all our activities, topics and learning. We explored colours and their shades; we observed weather and tried to understand its principles; and we also took a



look into the forest and spied its inhabitants. We took a walk to Horský Park and followed “doe, bear and bird foot prints” to search for various forest animals. It was an exciting way to extend our knowledge and vo-

cabulary as well as get rid of much energy at the same time. ☺

(Helena Molnárová, Head of Kindergarten)



November 11th was celebrated as Remembrance Day across the world. We sold poppy flowers and bracelets at our reception, and collected a fair amount of money to be sent to charity supporting war veterans. **Year 4s** prepared a presentation about the day, and recited the poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ by Canadian doctor, Colonel John McCrae who died in the First World War.

In our **Eco-council** we are looking at how to reduce waste and reuse or recycle unwanted materials. We began by putting recycling bins around the school for plastic bottles and paper. We are currently researching how much people are recycling in the school and are planning ways to make sure that everyone becomes more green. Each class has a volunteer for the 'green watch' who have the responsibility to turn off lights, close windows and make sure people are using the recycling bins correctly.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)



Besides our Student of the Week and Class of the Week awards we have started a new one — the **Sportsmanship and Fair Play Award**. This is the list of rules we will be judging it by:

- Show respect to yourself by treating others the way you want to be treated.
- Respect not only your teammates, but also your opponents.
- Respect your coaches, teachers and the officials of the game.
- Respect the rules of the game.
- Always play fair, and don't cheat to help yourself win.
- Accept the decisions of the coaches, teachers and the officials without arguing.
- Offer encouragement to teammates, especially when they make mistakes.
- Forgive yourself and others for making mistakes and get right back into the game.
- Lose without pouting, or sulking or being angry.
- Win without gloating, rubbing it in, or bragging to your losing opponent.
- Because it is about sportsmanship it has no importance who won or how well an individual performed.



The first certificate was awarded last week. Congratulations to the winner!

Trips



Year 2 went on a trip to horse stables in Pezinok because we have been learning about animals. We classified animals into different groups and looked at vertebrates and invertebrates. The children enjoyed learning about these particular mammals and the visit brought the learning to life for them. We learnt how to keep horses, where they stay and how to train them. The children also fed them and everyone had a ride on the horses, which was the best part!

Nicola Gray (Year 2G Class Teacher),
Katarína Schultzová (Year 2S Class Teacher)



Year 11s completed a Human Geography fieldwork trip to Eurovea shopping centre on the 14th October. They really enjoyed interviewing people and developing their Geography fieldwork skills. They looked at the sphere of influence, shopping patterns and completed a pedestrian count.

(Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History)

Features

This week's feature is about **Edita Harrison**, the Year 5H Class Teacher. Take a look at why she decided to be a teacher and what her hobbies are:

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

A: Because I really like learning new things myself, and by being a teacher I learn something new every day together with the children. I really like children and I think I can understand them as well. In addition, I really like school life – there's something different and exciting happening every day.

Q: Why did you choose to teach Primary?

A: I am interested in a lot of things, and as a Secondary teacher I would have had to choose one or two subjects, while as a Primary teacher I can teach many subjects and get involved in all sorts of different activities and projects.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I used to have many hobbies and enjoy exercising a lot, but now I mostly watch Peppa Pig, play with my daughter and enjoy walking my dog.



Clubs

It has been two months since our afternoon clubs began. The children have had a lot of fun baking, playing football, creating their own musical instruments and — the girls in particular — educating themselves to become accomplished young ladies. ☺ We would like to share some photos from the clubs with you:



The girls have a lot of fun in Denisa Križanská's **Ladylike Club** learning about etiquette, crafting jewellery, painting nails, and doing hair and make up.



Role Play Club

We have launched our Role Play Club successfully. We started with very basic plays and we are slowly improving our acting skills and vocabulary and becoming more self-confident.

At the beginning, children needed a lot of help with dialogues and were only able to work together as one group. Now they can form smaller groups and are much more independent.

They are now able to create their scenarios and lines and set the settings and roles. So far we have had roles such as cooks and presenters in the Culinary TV Show, actors in the theatre, shop assistants, and some fictional characters like fairies and horses and we are becoming able to express and act more abstract roles.

Every lesson, children get feedback from the video that was recorded and they are learning to analyse themselves and their friends. With the improving ability of playing different roles also grows their joy and enthusiasm for role play.

(Emília Riapošová, Teaching Assistant)

Junk band

In Junk Band, we have been making instruments from recycled goods such as shakers and cardboard guitars. Every lesson we play musical games such as 'invisible piano' and 'call and response.' We have also painted mood pictures to music.

We have watched videos of performances from musicians using musical instruments made of recycled materials. We then made some of our own instruments such as castanets made out of old bottle tops, maracas made from tin cans and pipes made from straws. We have had fun writing our own music using these instruments.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)

November events

Our Primary students had a chance to experience Maths in a different way than they usually do during the **Maths Day** on Wednesday, November 13th. They watched videos with assignments and completed challenges pictures of which you can see below:



Year 2G



Chess

In our club, in addition to learning the rules and strategies of chess, we also learn to be patient and to respect each other regardless of the result of the games. We also learn that we may lose one game, but with better concentration and harder work, there is always the chance to be the winner in the next game.

(Masoud Motlagh, Year 3M Class Teacher)





Year 3W



Year 3M



Year 4H



Year 5H



Year 4S



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