

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Newsletter for October. Over the last month we have had a number of trips and events including our first art and music afternoon with a workshop for parents and students run by parents (thank you to all who contributed). Artwork created by our students can still be viewed in our reception area including in the glass cabinets within the stairwells. There was a great deal of competition between parents and students to create the most elaborate Halloween pumpkin and we were able to decorate the school with over 50 carved masterpieces. Unfortunately, they have now had to be removed though they can still be seen in photographs on our website, Gallery section, along with other pictures of the very successful afternoon.

The art and music event was followed, two days later, by our Halloween activity afternoon which likewise features in our website Gallery. Also during October we had several trips including to the Roman ruins at Carnuntum in Austria and a Year 11 geography river fieldtrip: learning can be such fun as you will see in the articles and photos within the newsletter.

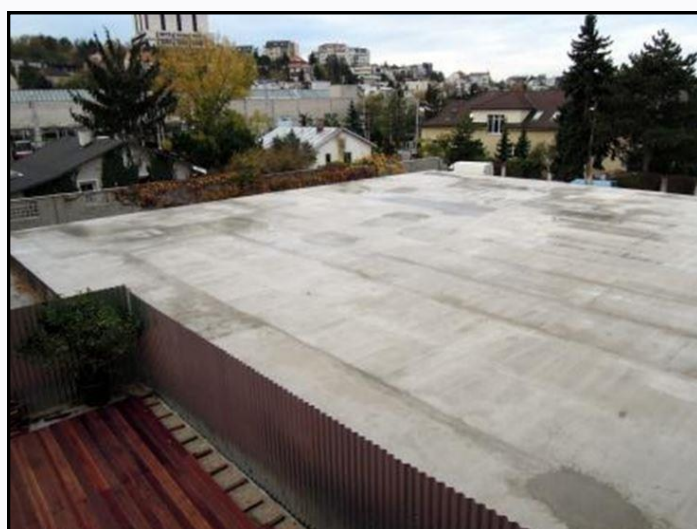
Outside the weather has changed with temperatures down to near zero earlier in the month and then up into the 20s as we reached our half term break. Despite the recent fine weather, nature knows that days are getting shorter and temper-

atures dropping so we have a very typical autumnal scene outside, shown in the photo, below, of the view from the soon to be opened, top floor of the new school block.



Also outside, the construction of our new gym and pool continues apace, with the superstructure now being complete. The top of the block has been concreted to produce a smooth and level floor ready for the laying of an outdoor all-weather surface that will form our new play and sports ground. Work also continues inside the block to get the gym ready as soon as possible, with the pool to follow.

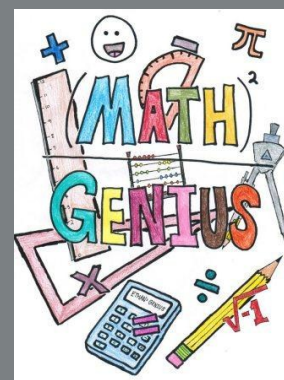
Peter Radoja



Upcoming events

13.11.2013 | Maths day

All our Primary students will have a chance to look at Maths from a different perspective on Wednesday, November 13th. The activities arranged for this day will cover a range of curriculum skills focusing particularly on problem solving. Pupils will have the opportunity to re-cap and use the knowledge they have gained this year, and in previous years, through a range of fun games and activities.



18.11.2013 - 22.11.2013 | Individual parent evenings

Individual meetings of parents and class/subject teachers about the progress of their children.

More information about the upcoming events to follow.



Around the world, 11th November each year is **Remembrance Day**.

The tradition is based on the official termina-

tion of the First World War when hostilities ceased at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month (1918).

Poppies are now worn to commemorate the fallen of all wars as they were able to grow in the devastation of battle fields. They are sold for a voluntary contribution to collect money to help war veterans and their families. There is commonly a one or two minute silence every November 11th in the UK and in many countries around the world at 11:00 to remember the sacrifice of the fallen.

Paper poppies will be on sale at the reception later this week for a voluntary contribution. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Poppy Appeal.

Great value books!

Every child has been given a catalogue from the Scholastic International Book Club. The Club is a great way to get children reading. Pupils can choose from a fantastic range of discounted books from around the world. If you would like to place an order to purchase any of the books in the catalogue, or select from Scholastic's wider range of books online, please go to: <http://eu.clubschool.scholastic.co.uk/cambridge-intl-sch-bratislava>. On this website, you can pay for the books and have them delivered directly to the school.



Books need to be ordered by November 29th. After that date the books will be delivered to school.

(Claire Smith, Year 9 Class Teacher)

On 24th October Year 6E and both Year 4 classes went on a visit to **Carnuntum Archaeological Park** in Austria, where they visited the small but excellent museum and a Roman village, where there are reconstructed buildings on an original Roman settlement. The homes of wealthy and less wealthy Romans have been reconstructed in an extremely authentic way and the children were fascinated to see in 3D the things they have seen in books and on a screen.

Some of the comments as we walked around were: “Now I really understand what the houses were like”; “The Roman technology was amazing”; “I didn’t realise that the Romans invented central heating” and amusingly having visited the communal public toilets, “I think it would be fun to sit on a toilet and have a chat!”.



At the end of the visit we went to the partly rebuilt amphitheatre and some of the children certainly enjoyed pretending to be gladiators similar to the ones we had seen in a video on a huge screen at the Roman village – a wonderful example of 21st century technology helping us to understand the history of 2000 years ago.

(Judi Easton, Year 6 Class Teacher)

Year 5 had a trip to the **Water Museum** as they are studying Water in Geography. It was very interesting. They learnt about how water gets to our homes, how wells are built and why it is safe to drink tap water in Bratislava. In the



picture they are standing on the oldest and biggest well on Sihot' Island.

This picture shows one of the 3D models of a river basin that children of **Year 5** made and then presented to the rest of the class.

It was a lot of fun to make and to paint the models but most importantly, by making them, the children really learned the features very well and will remember them for a long time.

(Edita Harrison, Year 5 Class Teacher)





River fieldtrip

Year 11 went on a Geography fieldtrip on October 17th as part of their IGCSE course. They measured the river's width, depth, gradient, and pebble size at two sites along the stream that runs through Stupava.

(Declan Hayes, Teacher of Geography and History)

On the 4th October, Year 2G and 2S went on a trip to the **Microsoft** offices in Bratislava. The children first sat down in the meeting room and were given refreshments and asked what they knew about Microsoft and computers. They seemed to know lots about computer games!

The employees then told the children some information and took us on a tour of the offices and introduced us to everyone, including the big boss! After, the children had apples and hot chocolate and played on the Xbox, before returning to school.

(Nicola Gray, Year 2G Class Teacher)



At the beginning of the school year, our **Year 1, Reception** and **Nursery** classes jumped to work and learning straight away. Besides their regular educational topics and "routine" learning activities, they also took part in a few very interesting projects. They joined a long-term programme of waste separation and became the "OLOmpic" Kindergarten to learn about ecological and responsible approaches towards our planet. They set up waste separation bins in each class and got to visit the zoo following their first PET bottle collection.



All of them were very surprised about how dependent we are on plastics, and how much we use them in our everyday lives.

(Helena Molnárová, Head of Kindergarten)

Your children in action

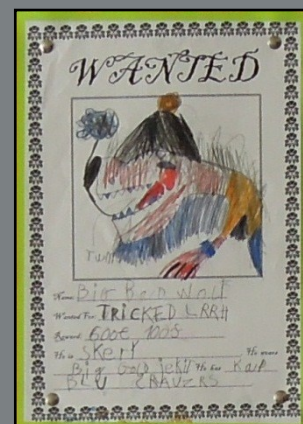
Take a look at how your children learn, participate in projects or group activities, and spend time in the school in general.

Year 3M – Character Study

One of the things we learned in English in Year 3M was character study. We learned that there are characters in stories. Then we looked at characters of some familiar stories. We noticed that the Big Bad Wolf was one of the characters in several of them. We also realized that he has been so mean and has done so many bad things to the other characters. So we decided to find him and lock him up.

We made “Wanted” posters based on character studies we did on those stories. We hope with the help of other children in school that we can find him and send him away to a faraway forest where he can’t harm anyone anymore.

(Masoud Motlagh, Year 3M Class Teacher)



Year 2 and **Year 3** have been going swimming once a week. The children are enjoying playing games, developing their confidence and learning skills in the sessions. Some children have improved massively and achieved personal goals, such as jumping in and swimming a bit further without an aid. They have also enjoyed learning the different strokes, but most of all they enjoy jumping off the big diving board!

(Nicola Gray, Y2G Class Teacher)



Year 3W planted bulbs and have been making sure that the plants get everything they need to grow: water, space, light, heat, fresh air and nutritious soil, full of vitamins and minerals. Hopefully, we will see some shoots appear in the spring. The learners have been given the responsibility to look after their own bulb.

(David Wells, Year 3W Class Teacher)



Year 3M learned about measuring, using measuring tapes and data collection. They decided to go to the kindergarten. They measured children there and both classes enjoyed this activity and experience. Children got real meaningful data and gained a good understanding of measurement.

(Masoud Motlagh, Year 3M Class Teacher)

In Science, pupils from **Year 4S** and **4H** have been completing research about the three different states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. Pupils used their bodies to create a 'freeze frame' of how the particles in each state behave.

Solids are made of particles which are packed together very tightly and are fixed in place. Liquids are made of particles that are not packed as tightly. This means that a liquid can take up different shapes.

The particles in a gas, however, are very loosely joined together so that they can spread out and fill the space available.

(Jason Harrison, Faye Smith, Year 4 Class Teachers)



Reading mentoring



After some initial tuition about how to support younger students with their reading, the **Year 7** students have begun to mentor the Year 2 children and, after just three twenty-minute sessions, all of the students seem to be benefitting from the experience.

Viktoria Feherova (Year 7T) said that it has helped her to realise how challenging teaching can be and that it

makes her think about the strategies that she can use to teach reading. But she hasn't let the experience put her off: "it's good to be with the small children and teaching might be something that I'd like to do in the future."

(Claire Smith, Teacher of English Language and Literature)



Year 7 students have been identifying the seven characteristics of living things and relating these to a wide range of organisms in the local and wider environment during their biology classes. They prepared presentations on one of the characteristics, and put themselves in the teacher's shoes giving a short lecture about how fish use their lateral line and how bees see.

(Mária Sirniková, Teacher of Science and Chemistry)

Year 9S made interesting posters for the topic „Mein idealer Lehrer/Meine ideale Lehrerin“. They are very creative and their approach to this topic was positive as well as practical. By making the posters they have had a lot of fun and at the same time they communicated in German practicing grammar and vocabulary covered in Unit 1. As you can see, they enjoyed a creative and positive atmosphere which is one of the things we want to have in each of our lessons.

(Elena Turoňová, Year 7 Class Teacher)



Features

Discover why our teachers choose their profession and specialisation, and find out what they do in their free time. This month's feature:

Faye Smith, Year 4 Class Teacher

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

A: I firstly decided to become a teacher because of my love of working with children and young people. I was also inspired to become a teacher because of some of the inspirational teachers I experienced during my own education. Finally, I cannot think of a more enjoyable and rewarding profession than that of a teacher.

Q: Why did you choose to teach Primary?

A: I decided to become a primary teacher because I enjoy working with pupils of this age due to their enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards learning. Secondly, primary teaching allows me to teach across a range of subjects in a cross curricular way.



Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: In my free time I enjoy taking part in outdoor activities such as

climbing, hiking and camping. I also enjoy swimming, reading and cooking. Since arriving in Slovakia I have been using my free time to visit new places and to explore Bratislava.

Primary Student Council



The Student Council meets every two weeks to give children the opportunity to develop the environment of their school. Mr Wells takes feedback from the children and helps to form ideas and eventually actions that will improve their experience at CIS.

(David Wells, Y3 Class Teacher)

Secondary Assembly



The aim of the Year 11 Assembly was to draw attention to the life of old people on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons (October 1st). Year 11 students and Ms Lucia pointed out the inappropriate behaviour of children and young people to old people in public transport in a short enactment. After that they talked about grandparents, principles of good behaviour and how we can help the elderly.

(Lucia Pauková, Year 11 Class Teacher)

October events

Art and Music Afternoon

We would like to thank you all for participating at our art, music and craft event on October 24th. We enjoyed the musical performances of our students and their displayed artworks in a nice and friendly atmosphere, with delicious cakes and biscuits brought along by some of you to share with us. The children, parents and even teachers had a great time with the various craft activities organized by some of our mothers. Take a look at some of the pictures from the day:



One of the displays of artwork created by our students in their Art lessons



Musical performance of 'Impossible' by our talented Year 4S trio



Pumpkin carving workshop



Cambridge International School Bratislava

Newsletter



Ghost making workshop



Tea bag folding workshop



Decoupage workshop

Halloween party

On October 25th, the last day of school before the mid-term break, our teachers under the leadership of Elena Turoňová prepared a Halloween themed afternoon for our students. All of us regardless of age had a lot of fun, and enjoyed the activities such as the scary house in the basement, dress-up race, apple fishing, spider web making, and scary taste.

Everyone got involved – we came dressed up in masks and the school turned into a monsters' den filled with walking mummies, zombies, witches and other creatures competing for the main prize in the Halloween costume contest. Secondary students participated in the organisation of the activities, helped to supervise the younger children, and even led some of the workshops. Big thanks go to our Year 7 students who prepared a Halloween bake sale with original and very tasty cakes. Here are some pictures to illustrate the festive atmosphere:



Trick-or-treating in the Director's office





Judi Easton reading a scary story



Pumpkin bowling



A game of Frustration (or "Man, don't get irritated")



Halloween bake sale



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