

We all know how Christmas preparations can be time consuming. In our Kindergarten it wasn't different. It all started at the beginning of November, when all kids got divided into small groups and started their Christmas show practice. We always start early to make sure kids have enough time to rehearse and to get comfortable and confident to perform. Weeks were passing by and we could feel the Christmas spirit everywhere. Kids were laughing, having fun and were getting more and more excited about the show. Once the day has come, everyone was ready and couldn't wait to show their best in front of their families. Speaking in name of all our teachers, we must give praise and compliments to all kids for their hard work and attitude towards the Christmas show. Well done everyone! If you want to follow all our journey, just read on. We will show you what we had gone through...



We've been busy with... Christmas show preparations



November and December were tough months. Our kids in each campus were working very hard on their Christmas shows. There were so many things that needed to be done. They were learning the texts and lyrics of the songs, they were dancing their little dances, some were even making the costumes. Oh, and they were creating the invitations! We could not even decide which ones we liked the most because they were all very beautiful and original. And since the groups were mixed, the kids had a chance to make new friends from different classes, which they used and enjoyed. We had one dress rehearsal in the kindergarten and one right in the theatre, on the real stage. We had practiced our shows so many times that we could not wait to we show it to you. It was really exhausting, but also very exciting...



To make our theatrical performance better and more understandable to you, parents, we tend to record the main narratives of our Christmas story. Hence, a small number of kids from each location visited the recording studio in mid-November. Having been already trained in pronunciation, expression, and meaning of the text, the procedure was very fun and rewarding for the children. They had to speak their lines into a big microphone, and I am sure you agree that they did an amazing job. The recordings, themselves, were played over the speakers at our show and they were wonderful, adding sparkle to the lovely story. Well done, children, you were amazing!



What happened at CIS school...



Our CIS Y2, Y3, Y4 students took part in the biggest Drumming event in Slovakia, called So Children Can Be Heard (Aby deti bolo počuť)



All students could join us in celebrating the Remembrance Day by contributing to Poppy Appeal.



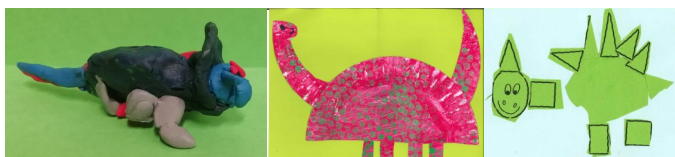
CIS took part in Charity Christmas Bazaar 2019 organised by IWCB - International Women's Club of Bratislava. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed with their time, enthusiasm, and effort!



We've been busy with... **Past times**

Long Long Time Ago

In the Slovak National Museum, there were so many interesting things to observe! The children could see miscellaneous expositions full of animals, colourful stones, fossils, and educative videos. When you come inside, the first thing that catches your attention is a huge brown mammoth, "bigger than our caravan" as one child said! The whole exhibition hall is full of skulls, bones, fossils of plants and animals... You can even see a small dinosaur that used to live in our area. We came here to watch all these remains of dinosaurs to get a glimpse of something real in addition to our discovery of prehistoric era in our classrooms. As a bonus, we got to check on other parts of the museum as well. In another room we observed precious and semi-precious stones and we walked amongst various kinds of animals, big and small, familiar and funny looking ones. Did you know there used to live belugas in Danube river? We learnt that in the museum, too!



We spy... **What is a coprolite?**



Alicka (Pufferfish): It's light.

Artur (Turtles): Easy peasy lemon squeezy. Can I go?

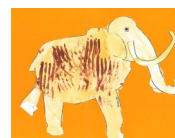


Emma (Butterflies): I don't know. Hmmm... a light?

Luca (Lions): I know it only in Spanish. Pol'ka.

Stelka U. (Pandas): It's a statue, made of stone.

Nikol (Bees): A dog.



Larka (Narwhals): Very big problem.



Mimi (Seals): Is it like what is over here on pink wall?

Ad'ko (Ladybugs): That will be a laser.



Butterflies were inspired to make a huge dinosaur; they used tempera colours and the sponging technique and improved their fine motor skills while they were cutting circles that they glued on it. It was a funny way how to learn about the history of the ancient times, geometry and arts.



To complement our topic A Long Time Ago, both in **Seals** and **Narwhal** Class we made some special dioramas to show the scenes (our imaginings) of the Dinosaur and Ice Ages. We decorated boxes in our

own imitable style complete with clay dinosaurs, volcanos, sky and background. We tried to use as much reclaimable material as possible and learnt a lot about co-operation and teamwork in the process.



Dinosaurs came to our classroom during "A long time ago" topic!!! We swear, they did!! The **Pandas** saw footprints everywhere...on the stage, on the carpet, on the boat and even on the door!! It was unbelievable! They came during the night and they really messed around!! We had fun playing with them during the whole week, and we were super excited at the Slovak National Museum when exploring each corner!

Teachers Inquiry... If you could be born once again, when would you like to live?



Ms. Silvi: I would like to live in the 1960s so I could attend all the concerts of my favourite bands, whose leaders are no longer with us.



Ms. Simi: I would like to be born in the future, e.g. 2888.

Ms. Kika Z.: 1940s-1950s – because at that time women were ladies and men were gentlemen, and the 50s fashion fit everyone. (No one can have a big butt in an A-cut dress ☺)



Ms. Miška M: Medieval times – kingdoms, simplicity of ordinary people, no electricity



Ms. Vava: I don't think this way. I'd like to think that wherever I would be born I find my "happy place" and people to love.



Ms. Ivetka: I would like to live in future... Or else in 1920s full of nice dresses and music.





Times of Princes and Princesses

After the ancient times we traveled to the medieval age, to the history of charming princes and beautiful princesses, kings and queens, magnificent castles, to the era of marvelous stories. Just like in those tales, we dressed up, and visited Bratislava castle. What a nice place to live! At first, we had to climb up the hill to get to the castle courtyard, then we could start to explore the secrets of the castle itself. Every floor was specific. We could see interesting objects from Prehistoric Age to Great Moravia, numismatics, treasury, glass and ceramics, sacral and fine arts, photos from the past, and even the BIB exhibition with cute illustrations from different tales. We walked through the splendid staircase from the time of Maria Theresa. Let's say wonderful but so exhausting, so many stairs were there. Some of us climbed even the highest tower of the castle. We wanted to see the dungeon and the oubliette but (un)fortunately they said it was closed ☺. We realized that it is a hard work to be a king or a queen, to walk so many stairs daily, but it was fun to wear beautiful dresses and crowns and walk in the castle.



Once upon a time, there was a castle in **Foxes** class, so we have decided to take the opportunity to have a proper royal party. Kids dressed up in their princes and princesses clothes and had a ball. At the end, they were excited to play in the castle for a while and pose for the photoshoot.

Castles are probably the most iconic buildings of medieval time. **Narwhals** decided to build a cardboard castle out of recyclables. With a bit of teamwork and construction skills they built a beautiful 3-dimensional castle.



The kids in **Bee** Class decided to create a Thankful Tree which is made of children's own ideas about things they are thankful for. The main goal is to change leaves on the tree throughout the whole school year according to the topic and season.

We spy... If you were a king/ a queen, what would be your first command?

Margo (Ladybugs): To be quiet – so everyone would speak quietly to the ears. They would have to have pairs when they would go to lunch and they would have to raise up a hand to say something.



Niya (Narwhals): Go find all the treasures.

Baška (Pandas): Hmm... clean up.



Mimi (Seals): When I be a queen, then I tell everybody that: "Everybody, it's lunch time! Come to sit on the table!"

Ad'ka (Butterflies): To eat lot of chocolate.



Ella (Pufferfish): I can wear a crown.

David (Bees): To be good and to help friends.

Week of Good Deeds

We are always happy to help others. And we are happy to teach kids in our Kindergarten, that helping can be enjoyed, because it teaches us about the importance of other beings. We learn to appreciate their presence, but we also realize the responsibility we carry along with it. This year, we could see different approaches in our classes to tackle this topic. For example, kids cleaned the whole classroom so that the cleaning ladies didn't have to do any work that day. In other classroom, kids talked about things they were grateful for and they made a poster depicting those things. Older kids went to help younger kids in their daily activities, whereas younger kids went to help older kids to clean up the classroom. It was really a beautiful week.



In the midst of pre-Christmas craziness, a.k.a. rehearsals and props preparations, we decided it is time for a little break from our regular routine. Therefore, it was up to each class to pick a topic according to their heart's desire... Some of them focused on sharing, some exercised their balance and muscle strength doing kids' yoga exercises, while other classes decided to work with various children's books and stories. Come and join us while we peek into each of our classrooms...

The story of The Three Little Pigs is so inspiring and educational that we decided to give it a go. The **Foxes** paired up with N2 class **Pandas** who got their inspiration in the bad bad wolf story, also known as The Red Riding Hood. Each class had their own weekly project but at the end of the week we met and had shared those two stories with each other. Must to say, it was a great idea and kids loved it! They were listening, watching with their eyes wide opened, they were puffing when the wolf tried to blow off the houses, they cheered and took part in the stories. After the experience, we cannot wait to do something similar again.



In **Seals** class our free topic of choice was "Managing Stress Relief." We enjoyed learning about how to manage our emotions and stress in order to cope with the high demands of daily practices for the Christmas Party. We did this through a variety of ways including art work, listening to music, dancing, singing, and we also enjoyed a week of telling stories through yoga poses. We went on a jungle adventure where we travelled by plane and after squelching through mud, swimming through rivers and sneaking through grass, we met some of the jungle animals, finishing the story in a zipped up tent, in prone pose, learning how to relax through deep breathing. We really enjoyed the poses and the stories and left each session feeling calm and stress free.

The **Turtles** moved to country full of numbers, shapes, graphs and diagrams. They all know that Math is Fun and during this week they realized it is all around us. We do math in morning circles when we check how many kids are present that day. We use our logic and creating subsets while guessing who the helper of the day is. The math is present even in tidying up - we sort toys in different categories or put books on a shelf according to their sizes. Oh, and how many mathematical toys we encountered... Playing Ludo, solving math puzzles and riddles. Or just using simple paper rolls and building towers with them! Don't believe people that tell you that math is difficult and boring! Our Turtles know otherwise!



up, and in other daily routine.

Children and adults often wonder what will tomorrow look like and what should we do to improve our society. The most important is to share and work together with each other. **Narwhals** for our weekly project helped younger children from other classes to dress up, line

During the special week I trust you, you trust me, **Butterflies** read the story "Come on, Daisy". They also created a poster of their favourite Daisy Duck who trusted to her Mummy Duck the most. They covered the water and the bushes with crepe paper and glued white and yellow feathers on Daisy Duck. Then Butterflies shared with us who earned their trust.



Flamingo class was learning how to share! We all love to play with toys, but it's harder to share those toys we all love so much. And so the teachers prepared a workshop where the kids practiced asking for toys, and also giving them away for others. In the end, all were happy to learn that when you borrow, you are also the one who receives.

This special week the **Pufferfish** had a very special guest too. Noam's father came to show us how to paint. We were practicing how to mix different colours, which brush is good for various paints, what kind of paper we use for painting. It was amazing that we could have a new experience.



In the week of the free topic, **Owls** were excited to listen to the stories which the toys from the shelf in Marinka's room were telling to each other every evening. You know, the ones from Mária Ďuričková's book What The Toys Talked About. So many adventures in so many different places! Owls really emphasized with the rocking horse who never goes outside with Marinka because he is too big. And liked the idea how the other toys wanted to cheer him up. And how the Owls showed how to be a good friend?

They brought their favourite toys, presented about them in front of the friends, and then shared them and enjoyed the playtime together. We have to praise all the Owls as there was no hesitation about lending their favourite toys to friends and let them play as well. Not only was it fun to listen to stories but Marinka's toys also showed us so many ways how we can cheer and support each other up.

We've been busy with... **Christmas shows**

STARÉ MESTO

Surprise Party for Santa Claus

This year, children in Staré Mesto performed the story called Surprise party for Santa Claus! The panic has started when Elves realized that they forgot about Santa's birthday. Invitation letters were sent out to all Elves, Reindeers, Bandits, Dragons, Minions, Pirates, Superheroes, and Royals and that's where the story begins. Everybody got well prepared for the party and were excited to say Happy birthday to Santa. Kids from all classes: Foxes, Pandas, Owls, Crabs, and Lions did brilliantly good! They made proud not only their mums and dads but also their teachers. Our little Foxes had their first ever performance and did really well as Minions! Reward for all the hard work came at the end of the Christmas show, where kids met with Santa and sang the song prepared especially for him.



MLYNSKÁ DOLINA

Christmas Tree in Colourland

Children from Mlynská Dolina enjoyed their Christmas performance a lot as well! They were practicing hard and they could not wait for the day D to show their parents some special songs, poems, dances, and the most important things: joy and effort. The main plot of the story was about one lonely Christmas tree and its meetings with beautiful colour lands. Green Land brought a box full of surprises and the other lands were filling it with their own decorations, symbols of something good and noble. Each of the land brought something else: Pink Land – love, Red Land – happiness, Blue Land – peace, Black Land – light, Purple Land – chocolate candy, and Yellow Land – stars. In the end, children sang a very special song called 'Shake It Out' and it was like a signal for Santa Claus to come to visit our busy bees because they definitely deserved some presents. Kids were performing like some experienced professionals without stage fright and not only their parents were feeling proud.



HORSKÝ PARK

Santa's Big Day

During this year's Christmas Show Horský Park presented a story about Santa's Big Day! The concept was similar to one the kids from Staré Mesto decided to act, but we added to different sketches our own little twists. The event was opened by the group of Elves preparing everything for the Christmas Eve. They realized that Santa's birthday is coming and so they decided to organize a very secret party. The Minions were the first to be invited and they decided to bring a big banana to share with Santa Claus. We saw Pirates discovering an invitation in a bottle, Forest Animals giving up their winter sleep, and Fairies getting ready for the big party. We also saw Giants walking five hundred miles to meet their friends, Royals being honorable in their manners, and Bandits promising to be fair and true. And of course, we can't forget the Reindeers! They polished their sledge, washed their antlers, and prepared to bring Santa to his party without him knowing anything about it. Everything went according to plan, kids were also surprised upon Santa's arrival (because, of course, we had always practiced without him!), and audience joyful.





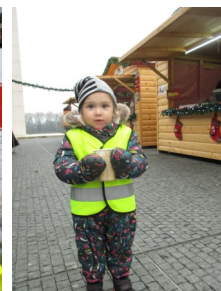
Visit of the Christmas Fair

It is becoming a very nice tradition to visit Christmas Fair in downtown shortly before holiday starts. The Christmas spirit everywhere, smell of food, punch, and fruits that evokes fast approaching celebrations... Plus, our little visitors get a coin each to use it as they desire. And so, some classes browse among the stalls looking for some cute keepsakes while others rather enjoy the taste and warmth of traditional kids punch. Whatever makes our little ones happy! ☺



Visit of St. Nicolas and His Partners

Have you been naughty or nice? All our kids had to answer this simple question to St Nicolas and his friends Angel and Devil. Of course, they were all nice and well behaved so they could get some sweet treats. Some kids were rather quiet, possibly little scared, but the rest of them managed to sing a song and give small gifts to St. Nicolas in return.



We spy... What is Christmas good for?

Vladko (Narwhals):

That we will be with all parents really long time and they will bring us presents and we will enjoy the



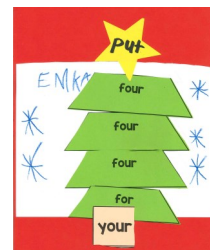
Luca (Lions):

For having some things for presents. For example, when you have something broken and you can get a new one like a computer for my daddy.



Tamarka F. (Butterflies): To say Happy Christmas, to listen to Twinkle Twinkle Little Star and to watch Peppa Pig stories.

Meggie (Owls): Birthday. And presents. Santa is coming and that is fun.



Matias (Ladybugs): Because you can throw snowballs.

Artur (Turtles): For scooters.

Veve (Bees): For family, that is all.



Martinko (Crabs): For having presents... and Christmas tree and Christmas vegetables. Kapustnica.

Ella (Pufferfish): For Santa. For reindeers. For snowman.



Baška (Pandas): To Vianočný stromček. Because it's also Nameday Birthday also Happy bye-bye.

Arthur (Seals): For everybody.

The **Turtles** got a very unique idea this year. They decided to create their very own postcards and send them to their families. And so they painted, cut, glued, and even practiced writing! They waited for sooo long at the post office until they finally got post stamps. And then they had to look for a post box... It was long and demanding process but well worth it.



The **Owls** decided to take care of animals during this cold season. They created food holders for birds. At first, they spread the peanut butter on paper rolls, and then they sprinkled them with seeds. The most important step was to hang it on the trees, but Owls managed to do that too – with help from our lovely Mr. Pišta. It was a great prosocial idea, which they really enjoyed.



Kids from the **Ladybug** class put their heart into their Christmas decoration. At the same time they also got to practice their fine motor and cutting skills. The best part was that they were using their own imagination, which is the most important thing for one's creative mind.



Christmas Workshops

Like every year, this year we also hosted Christmas workshops on all our locations. That one day devoted to getting to know each other, crafting nice handmade presents for relatives, and spending some quality time with the kids, teachers and other parents as well. All accompanied by delicious sauerkraut soup, Christmas punch, pastry, and relaxed atmosphere. We hope you enjoyed the workshops as much as we did, and that you made something nice for yourself and your family. We would also like to thank you for your contribution to cookie sharing! Cakes and cookies were delicious, and we are already excited for your next year's creations. See you by the punch jug next year!



Winter kicked in and **Butterflies** were creating proper clothes out of paper: a pair of gloves and winter hats. They coloured the front page of gloves with pencils and stamped their handprints in it with white tempera colour. For hats they started with decorating the blank paper with Crayola and then put water colours through it. For the pompom on the top they tore paper, scratched, and glued it.



The **Crabs** learned how to make a beautiful Christmas candle decoration. They used their creativity and aesthetic feeling and with help of Miška's mum they created lovely candle holders for their families.

This month finally brought us some snow so little **Pufferfish** decided to use it to the fullest! They spent whole morning in the garden creating snowballs and snow fighting. Pity, there wasn't enough of it to build a new snowman friend.



The **Lions** kept reading different winter stories throughout all month. Later, they reviewed and reflected by writing sentences about them and illustrating them. This was a very nice exercise to get the kids to pay attention to the text and to practice their handwriting. Good job, little Lions... You are almost ready for school!

Extra-curricular activities... Judo club



Once a week, trainers from the Fit Kids group come to our kindergarten to train our little ones. We all learn that Judo is not about fighting others but about discipline and endurance. And that's exactly what we want - to learn to be great adults one day!

If I were...

Ms. Vanesa - Pandas (Staré Mesto)

If I were... I would be:

... animal: bee

But the kids say:

* A turtle because she has sometimes green dress

* Dog because she is looking like the dog

... colour: red

But the kids say:

* Unicorn colour and glittery because she likes colours

* Yellow because giraffes are yellow and she likes giraffes

... weather: sunny

But the kids say:

* Snowy because she likes the snow and we can make a snowman.

* Christmas weather. Because she likes Christmas.

... shape: square

But the kids say:

* Boat shape. Because she likes the sea.

... vegetable or fruit: pumpkin

But the kids say:

* Apple. She likes it and she is always eating it when it's summer

* Strawberry. Because she likes the red colour

... fairy tale character: princess Bela

But the kids say:

* Astrid from Vikingovia. Because she is girl and she likes Stikút.



Ms. Bibi - Butterflies (Mlynská Dolina)

If I were... I would be:

... animal: dolphin

But the kids say:

* A lion, because she will eat me.

* She is a butterfly, because she is in that classroom and butterflies are flying – she can fly because she has got wings under her dress!

... colour: white

But the kids say:

* Pink because she is a pinkie lady

* She is yellow like a banana

... weather: sunny

And the kids say:

* Ms. Bibi is sunshine.

* She can be like warm weather

... shape: heart

And the kids say:

* A heart because we like her

* I think she is a star because I love stars, they are shining...

... vegetable or fruit: peach

But the kids say:

* An apple, because she is red

* She is a strawberry, because she is nice

... fairy tale character: Rapunzel

But the kids say:

* I don't know, she is LEGO, because I like to play with Lego



Ms. Vava - Pufferfish (Horský Park)

If I were... I would be:

... animal: eagle

But the kids say:

* Elephant

* Dog

* Rabbit because rabbits are good at jumping

... colour: rainbow

But the kids say:

* Red, because I think she is a red butterfly

* She would be skin colour

* All colours. Because she is like a rainbow

... weather: summer breeze

But the kids say:

* Christmas weather

* Sunny because she is like this (smiling widely), like sun.

... shape: unspecified shape

But the kids say:

* Circle

* Heart

... vegetable or fruit: celery

But the kids say:

* Orange or plum

* Carrot

... fairy tale character: Olaf

But the kids say:

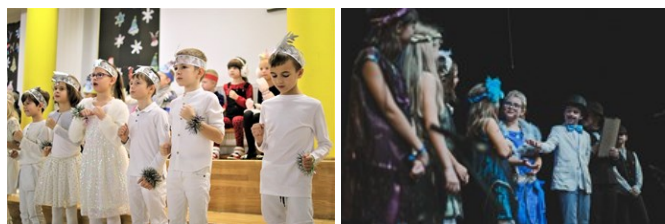
* Anna

* Elsa

* Some germs from my book



What happened at CIS school



CIS welcomed many arents and grandparents at the occasion of Y2 & Y3 Christmas Musical - Snowman at Sunset and Y4, Y5 & Y6 musical Mystery at Magpie Manor. Both performances was very warm-hearted, full of great songs and beautiful costumes.



The Christmas Book Fair took place the last week of school. We were honored to have here Ms Fazekášová from Trio Publishing and Ms Zoe Vobořilová who recommended our students some great books.

News in December

Kindergarten staff from all our three campuses got together to celebrate the end of the year. We shared plenty of lovely memories, some gossips, and mostly fun and small talks. It is lovely to meet people who are not a part of our team anymore but are still willing to show up at any of our events. We wish you all happy new year!



Upcoming events

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