



The Tattler



ISA's Primary School Newsletter

December 2017

Student's Corner

Grade 2 Interview questions on jobs around the school...Can you guess the job?

Question: What are the responsibilities you have in your job?

Answer: I am here to take care of children who are sick.

Question: What do you like the most about your job?

Answer: I like meeting people and organizing events.

Question: What do you like most about your job?

Answer: I like reading books to children.

Grade 5 excerpt from a 3-day diary of an immigrant (Immigration unit):

'The air was growing cold. Little white drops were falling from the large sky. But the beautiful white things were not white nor were they falling fast. They were moving slowly from side to side like the last autumn leaf falling from its naked tree. I had tried desperately to catch one but every time it would touch my pale skin it would disappear. It was a strange thing for I have never seen or felt such a cold thing before. Where I came from in Kenya everything was very hot. No one would ever come dressed in warm clothes. But now it was different. So different I could have forgotten my home. The home in Kenya where I was born and raised. Now my home was just a fading memory on the dark side of my mind. By Uriel Ross

From the Principal's desk.....

It's Wednesday, December 6th. . . the students are busy practicing with Ms Kounadis for our winter show, the student council are opening boxes of decorations for our Holiday tree, our SOS club members and Ms. Eleni are hard at work preparing wonderful holiday gifts for their bazaar table. . . and teachers are poring over drafts of student report cards which, by now, you will have already received.

It is amazing how quickly the first few months of school have passed. Looking back we have already been very busy showcasing our hard work around the school, taking field trips and sharing our knowledge in many different ways.

Here are just a few of the events that have taken place:

- Congratulations to this year's student council members- Spilios Maderakis (gr.6), Demosthenes Hickling (gr. 6), Elena Abueid (gr. 5), Manya Daoula (gr. 5), Christina Danali (gr. 4), Efrosyni Vergitsis (gr. 4). They have been

working very hard thus far, planning our Halloween Day, decorating for the holidays and making plans for a fun day on the last day before Winter Break.

- A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Jeans for Genes Day. The 200 euros collected was donated to a Cystic Fibrosis Organization. Our presenter this year, our own Upper School Biology teacher, Mr. Papatheocharis, gave us a wonderful presentation on Genes.
- Our OHI Day Greek presentation gave students in grades 3 - 6 an opportunity to reflect on conflict and how this could be resolved peacefully. Students inquired into the events of that day and demonstrated the profile and attitudes of our program in a number of ways. Congratulations to all students.
- Our German students in Mr. Koutsandreou's class once again paraded around our school singing German songs and proudly displaying their colorful lanterns when celebrating St. Martin's Day.
- Our 5th graders have been inquiring into their unit on 'Immigration'. The proceeds gathered from their bake sale and used book sale have been

used to purchase boots, socks and biscuits that were delivered to the refugee children who reside at Elaionas. The visit proved to be an amazing experience and our school received great praise as a result of this unit's action plan...to make a difference in the lives of refugee children.

News from our classrooms....

Our younger grade one students were busy experimenting and finding out about the various states of matter! Now please don't think they are too young to investigate through the scientific method. I personally witnessed them talking about making predictions by hypothesizing and carrying out investigations through various experiments. Bravo to our young scientists who managed to discover that matter can exist as a solid, liquid or gas!



Now the second graders decided to inquire into the different jobs that exist within our very own school. They carefully formulated questions and interviewed various members of our school community....our director, Dr. Molfetas, our canteen staff, the business office and, of course, members of the Primary, including myself. With the information gathered, the students worked in groups as a team to create board games that sent students 'to the canteen to buy their lunch' by moving ahead two spaces, and 'to the Principal's office' by going back three spaces...well, let's say for various reasons!



Conflict resolutions seemed to be the burning issues of our grade three students. Through discussions on what escalates a conflict, the students were able to conclude that there are ways to help deescalate one. Proudly, they presented their ideas through 'conflict ladders and slides'. Throughout the year they are encouraged to refer to their ladders to help them gain confidence in making right choices. Our strong third graders are getting even stronger every day!

This year's fourth graders, in their inquiry on oceans, were challenged by the devastating oil-spill that hit the Saronic Gulf this fall. Through their investigations on real samples of items brought to class that were affected by the oil-spill, the students were shocked when they discovered that the damage was irreversible. So they took it in their own hands to help by cleaning one of our local beaches! Thank you four graders for making this difference!

Our older fifth graders inquired into the reasons why people have fled from their country, through their unit on 'immigration'. After days of planning, our fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Tagas and Mrs. Kaza planned an experience the students will remember for a long time. Returning to their classrooms after recess, the students were told that their classroom keys were lost. They asked the students to sit in other grades where they were obviously not warmly welcomed (well-planned amongst teachers). They were separated from their classmates, had no

books, no seats to sit in and were asked to just listen to a lesson they knew nothing about for one 45 minute class period...and then the plan was revealed! Their reactions were remarkable! What better way to help them to understand how immigrants feel!

Last, but not least, our older sixth graders inquired into the various governmental systems that exist in different parts of our world. Their visit to the Greek Parliament was an exceptionally good opportunity for them to understand that many people and structures are involved in making decisions through various systems. The students then investigated various systems to broaden their knowledge. Hopefully, they have understood the qualities needed for great leadership as we never know who, amongst our student body, will surprise us in the near future!



Grade two students visited Ampersand Makerspace to create machines and to learn how we must work together in order to get a job done efficiently (unit of inquiry related to 'Jobs')

Dates to remember...

December

Sunday 17th Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday 19th Winter Show

Friday 22nd Last day of classes
Before winter break

January

Monday 8th Classes resume



Please look out for these wonderful snow babies that are waiting to be adopted at this year's bazaar to help support our SOS Children's Village.

Additionally, there will be student-made gingerbread houses to decorate your Holiday tables.



Grade 6 students creatively portray their identities through 'POP ART'!

On behalf of the ISA administration, faculty and staff I send our best wishes to all our families for a relaxing, happy vacation and a healthy, peaceful 2018.