



Primary Years
Programme

PYP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF ATHENS

Message from the PYP Coordinator

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The first term has officially come to an end, and the holiday season is upon us. What a great way to end the term by sharing with you the first newsletter of the 2021-22 academic year.

The newsletter is a means of communicating what our students are doing relating to the programme, but also to share with the community ways the faculty are supporting and developing the PYP programme. Below are a few examples of what we have been working on for the past year.

Starting last academic year, the PYP teachers collaboratively began evaluating the reporting system we use in the Primary. During our faculty meetings, we focused on identifying the learning outcomes for each subject based on the IBO Scope and Sequence documentation. The new reporting system is based on subject-specific learning outcomes, allowing for more targeted assessment.

In June of 2021, fifty teachers from the Primary Years Programme attended six-hour/ two-day workshops. The workshops focused on 'Concept-based learning' and 'Evidencing Learning' presented by workshop leaders from the International Baccalaureate Organization. The workshops provided the teachers with many opportunities to reflect on their teaching and to further develop their understanding and application of the enhancements in the Primary Years Programme.

During our general faculty meetings this term, the PYP teachers collaborated and reflected on areas of the curriculum. More specifically, we addressed the vertical and horizontal articulation of the programme of inquiry. Collaboratively, grades K-6 homeroom and single-subject teachers worked to ensure that all the elements of the PYP were addressed within the programme of inquiry.

On November 10th, a PYP informative evening took place in the theater for parents from Melina's Kindergarten, and for new families from grades 1-3. Parents who attended the recent PYP evening were informed about what makes our curriculum unique and relevant. The aim was to increase the parents understanding about the PYP philosophy, the framework, as well as different aspects of the current Programme of Inquiry.

I look forward to sharing with you throughout the year, information regarding the continual development of the programme.

On behalf of the PYP teachers and myself, I would like to wish all the ISA Primary families a wonderful winter break.

Warm Wishes!

Athanasia Savvas

PYP Coordinator
L.A. Coordinator
Grade 6 Teacher

September 2021-
November 2021
Term 1
Volume 2, Issue 1

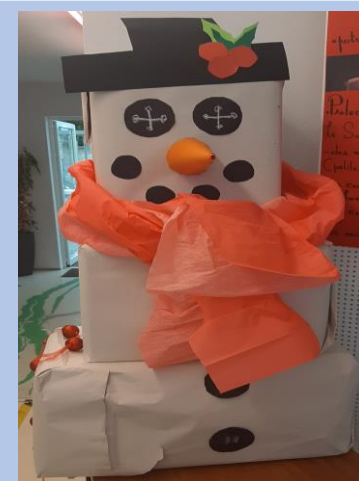
Inside this issue:

Message from the Coordinator	1
Message from the Principal	2
PYP in Action	3-10
Events	11-12

Upcoming Events

Primary School

- Wednesday, December 15th: 1st term. Reports/Parent-Teacher Conferences (no classes)
- Tuesday, December 21st: Last day of classes before winter break.
- Monday, January 10th, 2022: Classes resume.



PYP SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited to present to you the first ISA Primary Newsletter for the academic year 2021-2022.

For the past 3 months we have all been very busy. On October 8th we had our Student Council elections in the Primary. Shout out to all the candidates for being risk-takers and principled throughout the whole procedure. The new student council members quickly assumed their duties and worked together for their first task which was to organize a Jeanes for Genes tags day. They managed to collect the amount of 336 euros which they decided to donate to Floga, an organization that supports children with cancer.

On Halloween, we had a lot of fun, wearing our costumes, participating in the Primary parade, dancing, making crafts and taking part in contests. Congratulations to 5A who won the best decorated Halloween door and to Theo Cirera 6B, Ralou Chatzigeorgiou 3C and Stefania Chrysochoidou 2A who won the 3 first prizes for the most creatively designed pumpkins!

After a year of restrictions, we are all super excited for being able once again to go on field trips and visit places of interest that connect to our units of inquiry. Our grade 4 students visited the Schoinia Beach for a beach clean-up connecting to their unit on Oceans. They also visited the Zaheos farm and learned about olive oil production. Grade 3 visited the Tactual Museum as a connection to their readings about Louis Braille. Grade 2 had fun and spent some creative time at the Ambersand Makerspace where they collaborated in small groups to build up a robot and learned about teamwork. Working on their unit on Beliefs, grade 5 students had the opportunity to visit a Greek Orthodox and a Catholic church, as well as the Islamic and the Jewish Museum. They learned about the culture and the practices of different religions and explored their similarities and differences.

Our first book fair was a success! Students got the chance to choose and purchase from a variety of books and different genres and listen to stories read to them by Ms. Xilas.

Winter break is around the corner and our second graders are getting ready to present their Winter Show to their parents at the school's theatre on Dec. 17th. As much as we would love to have you all with us on that day, due to the restrictions and to keep everyone safe, we had to make a choice and invite only one grade level to perform. Don't worry though. We have made exciting plans so that, during the year, each grade level will have the chance to invite their parents and share with them their knowledge and skills through wonderful presentations, exhibitions, or performances. Grade 5 has already made the beginning.

On behalf of all of us in the Primary, I wish you all a lovely winter break and we are looking forward to welcoming our students back in January.

Happy Holidays!

Nancy Kaza
Primary School Principal



PYP IN ACTION: Kindergarten

Central Idea: Senses help us to learn about the world around us

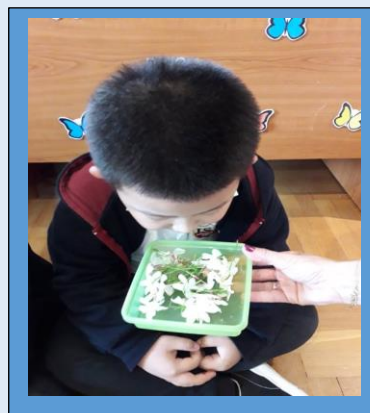
Lines of Inquiry:

1. The importance of our senses
2. What we can do with our senses
3. How we look after our senses

ATL Skills: Research skills and social skills

Learner Profiles: Risk takers, Caring, and Balanced

Our first term unit of inquiry: 'Who We Are' Ms. Penny's Kindergarten children focused on learning, using our five senses to help inquire about the world we live in. In this activity, the children focused on the sense of 'Smell' where each child brought to school various items to smell. After smelling the different scents, the children placed the items into a vase filled with water to make their own 'perfume'. For math, the children also created a pictograph, identifying the different smells they liked and the smells they did not like.



PYP in Action: Grade 1

Central Idea: Matter has properties you can discover through investigations

Lines of Inquiry:

1. What the states of matter are
2. What the properties of matter are
3. How matter undergoes physical changes

ATL Skills: Communication Skills and Thinking Skills

Learner Profiles: Inquirers and Thinkers

To explore the scientific method, the students used a non-Newtonian fluid, known as the 'Oobleck' to explore the different properties of matter. This fluid is made from water and cornstarch. It acts like a liquid when at rest and like a solid when put under pressure. This substance's funny name comes from a Dr. Seuss book titled *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*.

Using the scientific method, the students predicted and tested their hypothesis, that if you dip your hand slowly into the mix, their fingers will slide in as easily as if it were water. Moving slowly the cornstarch particles move out of the way. Whereas a quick tap on the surface of the Oobleck, it will make the liquid hard.



PYP in Action: Grade 2

Grade 2

Central Idea: In a workplace, people share responsibility towards a common purpose

Lines of Inquiry:

1. Purpose of a workplace
2. Inter-connectedness of people in a workplace
3. Importance of a shared vision or common purpose

ATL Skills: Communication Skills, Social Skills, and Thinking Skills

Learner Profiles: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Balanced and Open-Minded

ISA Grade 2 students visited Ampersand Robotics and during their visit the students discussed our solar system and its planets. This visit, focused on all lines of inquiry. To explore the planets, they built a space rover with LEGOs. They programmed their robot to move and detect obstacles. Furthermore, they explored space travel. Also, they participated in a NASA challenge to build a reusable space lander which will enable astronauts to travel to other planets. Grade 2 worked collaboratively, and they had lots of fun coming up with all sorts of creative ideas!



PYP in Action: Grade 3

Grade 3

Central Idea: Inventions impact history

Lines of Inquiry:

1. People whose inventions have lived on beyond their own time
2. The need for inventions
3. The need for further inventions

ATL Skills: Communication Skills and Research Skills

Learner Profiles: Inquirers, Thinkers, and Communicators

Grade 3 visited the Kotsanas museum of ancient technology in connection to our second unit of inquiry, under the transdisciplinary theme "Where we Are in Place and Time". The students had the opportunity to develop their communication skills while asking questions and participating in a discussion about the inventions. In addition, the students used the skill of research to find out information about certain inventions and complete a variety of tasks developed to enhance the skill.



PYP in Action: Grade 4

Grade 4

Central Idea: Human actions have a direct impact on the world's oceans

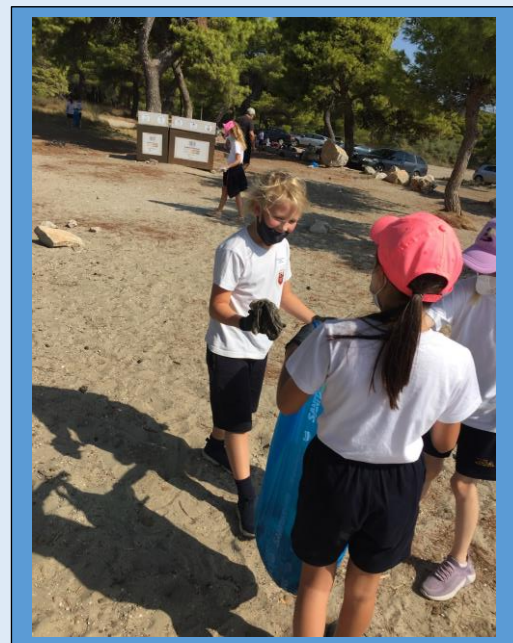
Lines of Inquiry:

1. The ocean as an environment
2. Environment concerns of the ocean
3. The impact of humans on the ocean environment
4. Our responsibility towards protecting the ocean environment

ATL Skills: Thinking Skills and Self-Management Skills

Learner Profiles: Thinker, Caring, and Knowledgeable

As part of our action for our unit the 4th grade students took a field trip to Schoinas beach to participate in a beach clean-up. We spent time cleaning up the beach and applied our understanding of the unit of inquiry to the real world. We put into action the central idea by making a positive impact on the world's oceans and seas. Moreover, we showed we are caring by taking care of our environment.



PYP in Action: Grade 5

Grade 5

Central Idea: Systems that define beliefs and values offer explanations about the world around us and what it means to be human

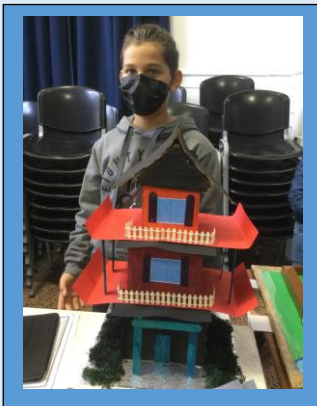
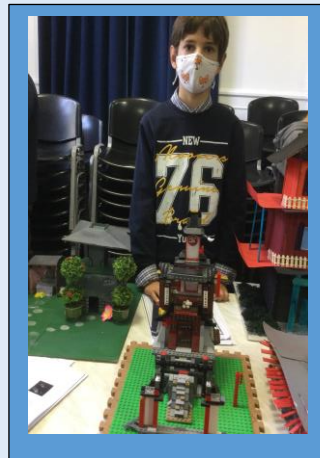
Lines of Inquiry:

1. Why religions exist
2. The similarities and differences between belief systems
3. The impact of spiritual traditions on society

ATL Skills: Research Skills and Self-Management Skills

Learner Profiles: Communication, Open-Minded and Caring

In the unit of inquiry about beliefs, students explored and researched about major religions and created models of famous religious sites. During our exhibition, students had the opportunity to present their work in front of parents and peers and answer questions connecting to their choice of religion.



PYP in Action: Grade 6

Grade 6

Central Idea: A person's behavior and how they choose to present themselves project aspects of their identity

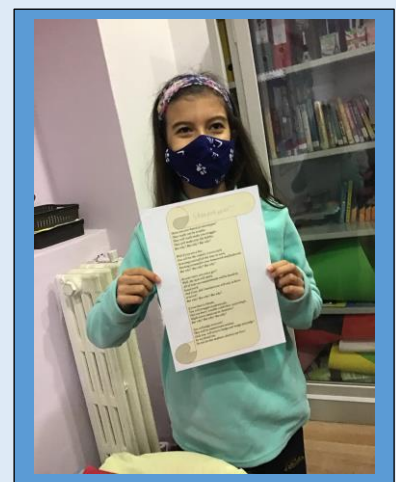
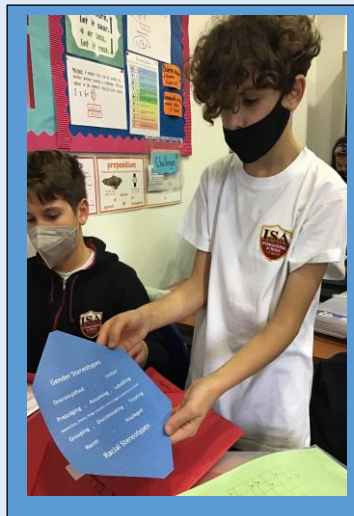
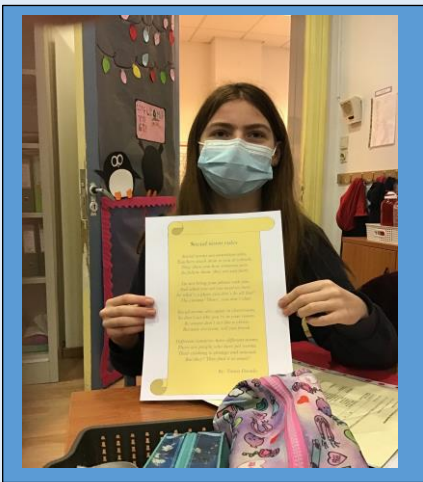
Lines of Inquiry:

1. How appearance and behavior influence our perception of others
2. The influence of cultural and social norms on how we choose to present ourselves
3. Fashion as a form of expression

ATL Skills: Communication Skills, Social Skills, and Self-Management Skills

Learner Profiles: Thinkers, Reflective, and Open-Minded

In connection to our transdisciplinary theme, "How We Express Ourselves", grade 6 students inquired into how a person's behavior, cultural and social norms, and fashion expresses aspects of their identity. As a language arts connection, they identified figurative language within a variety of texts and within poetry. As a summative assessment, students created poetry expressing their understanding of the central idea.



8/12/21

Το δωμάτιό μου

ΗΘΕΛΑ να είνε ένα δωμάτιο με
μια καρέκλα, έστω
να χύει παρκερ, παρκε
φτιαγμένα από ξύλο και ριζές.

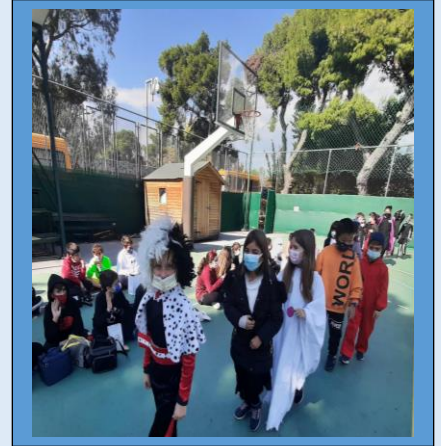
Να, χύει κορβιές πλαφόν
και παλινδρομικά παρκε
ενα τραπέζι να διαβάσω
και παρκε παιχνιδιά να διασκεδάω

Να χύει κορβιές χρωματιστές
παιχνιδιό, ταβάνι
ένα τζακι, παρκε
τα βράδια παρκε να με κοιμώ

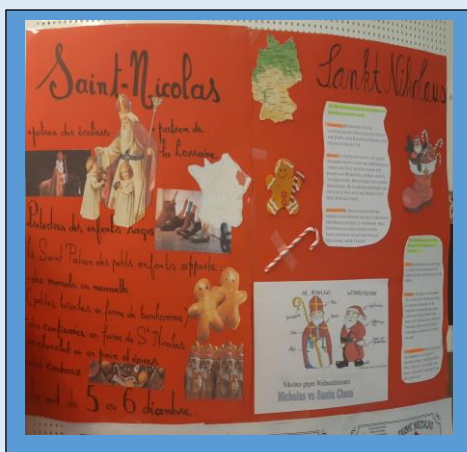
Marion's
Boxcar
3A ✓
Μπρίβο

Events

Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Contest Winners



Christmas



Events

Speeches



Student Council Elections

Voting



Elected Student Council Representatives for the 2021-22 Academic Year (Grades 4-6)

