



# BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

# NEWSLETTER

27th October 2017  
Week 10

Britannica International School is a British school located in the heart of Shanghai, providing a British style education to international families with children aged 2 to 18.



1988 GUBEI ROAD, SHANGHAI 201103 CHINA

Tel: 021 6402 7889

Web: [www.britannicashanghai.com](http://www.britannicashanghai.com)



**DAVID GOODWIN**  
**PRINCIPAL**

**Dear Parents,**

Yet another super week at Britannica, brimming with exciting activities and events. We do hope that you were able to join us for one or more of them.

What a great turn-out we had for our celebration of the United Nations Day on Tuesday. How fitting for us to celebrate this, being the true international school that we are. Each different passport holder group were able to carry the flag for their country. It was also great to see the Scots and Welsh celebrating their cultural distinctions among the British contingency. The United Nations is all about diversity under one flag, all in reach of a common goal, and in many senses this reflects Britannica's whole school vision for itself.

Britannica's Got Talent on Wednesday evening, like last year, also proved the diversity and depth of talent among its student body. In addition it was another good example of the collaborative teamwork that goes on between Britannica teachers. Thank you to all our participants and also to all those staff who were involved.

We finished this week with some great activities going on in Years 1 and 2 to celebrate Maths Day on Friday. Children moved between KS1 teachers and participated in a range of different activities organised to enthuse them about learning Maths as a subject. The day coincided nicely with a tour of the school that I was giving Soong Ching Ling Kindergarten parents, with over a dozen parents who were keen to visit the school as a group and learn more about what makes us special.

This week we have had some sad news about families finishing contracts in Shanghai and needing to return to their home countries at Christmas. It has been wonderful though to receive glowing messages about how happy their children have been while at the school and how they are enthusiastically recommending us to incoming new families. We do know that the next two months, which is packed with further exciting events and classroom activities, will make sure any departing children have a great last two months with us.



## Week in Pre-Nursery

Our Pre-Nursery children were very brave, followed instructions and handled themselves very well during the United Nations Day Parade this week. It was a big step for them to attend such a large school event and I was extremely proud of them. Thank you to parents yet again for an amazing show of support, accompanying the movement of children to and from the event and the efforts made in presenting children in national dress. It was an exciting morning and children settled well into our class routine on return to the Pre-Nursery room. It was a great opportunity to extend on our learning theme, "Our School", and expose children to the activities of their wider, school community. I am certainly seeing a sense of belonging and recognition from children that they are part of a bigger, purposeful school. During line formation and movement to the lunch room, they waved excitedly to older students and say hello to passing staff members.

In preparation for our Autumn Pumpkin Palooza festival, we are reading "Little Red Riding Hood" and prior to nap, watching a five minute Peppa Pig Halloween cartoon. I am sure children will be excited to dress up like their character friends with parents and teacher for this special day next Wednesday.

In class, children have been experimenting with the fun science of slime! Children eagerly observed Miss Rachael's many attempts to make the very difficult science happen to produce our slime. We mixed safe chemicals, liquids, colouring, glitter, and water to produce our magical substance. During their sensory experience with slime, children exercised their fine motor skills, explored the concept of "stretch" and investigated the feeling of "sticky".



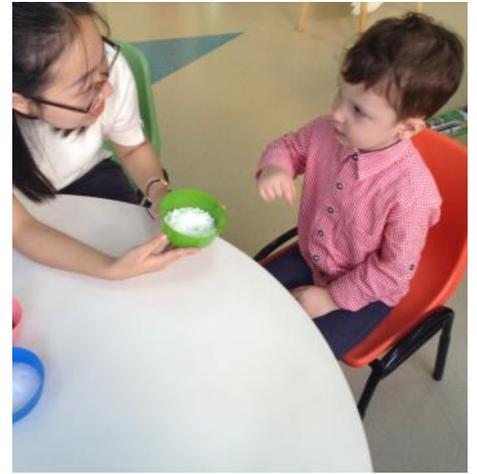


## Week in Nursery

Wow, it has been another busy and exciting week for the children in Nursery! We have been learning about "taste" and "smell". We have been introducing vocabulary such as sweet, sour, bitter and spicy and have used these during our activity for "tasting". The children were able to explore tastes such as lemon, sugar, salt, coco powder and vanilla extract. Can you guess which one was the children's favourite?! We have also been discussing the foods that we like and don't like to eat and what they might taste like to us.

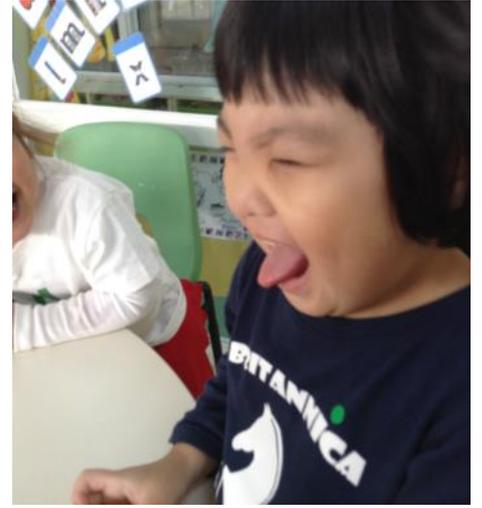
Later in the week, the Nursery children followed a recipe to bake their own fairy cakes. The children listened carefully as they mixed, squeezed, stirred and poured the mixture, talking about the textures and smells of the cake mix. We also talked about kitchen safety and how to use the equipment correctly. The children couldn't wait to try them! We hope you like the photographs from this week!

The Nursery Team





## Week in Nursery





## Week in Reception

This week in Reception it's been all about Subtraction. We have had great fun knocking 10 green bottles off the wall, playing 10 in the bed, and getting competitive with a spot of 10 pin bowling.

In Literacy, we have spent the week focussing on our tricky words "the", "go", "no" and "to". We have made stop and go signs and used them to move around in different ways. We have played a Yes/No quiz, holding up the correct cards to show our answers to silly questions, and we have sent letters and pictures to our friends.

The children have worked with their classmates to create some large Autumnal Art for display in their rooms and have enjoyed looking at the seasonal changes around us.

We look forward to seeing everybody next Wednesday afternoon for Pumpkin Palooza fun!





## Week in Reception





## Year 1

Eliciting creative thinking in the classroom is a goal for each one of the teachers in Year 1. The teaching of creativity embraces form and structure as well as freedom of thought and expression. It is very important to create an environment and provide students with the tools to express themselves fully as unique individuals.

This week in Year 1, the focus in English was the book "Not a Stick" by Antoinette Portis. The story book proves that a stick is not always a stick. Each child in Year 1 was given the opportunity to explore the school grounds looking through and finding their own unique stick, to let their imagination take over and the magic begin!

The children were encouraged to use their imaginations and creative thinking to explore a stick in its many forms, whether it's conducting an orchestra, painting a masterpiece, or slaying a dragon. Visualising and imaging were used almost simultaneously while various exercises such as storytelling, creative writing, and vocabulary were used in class this week.



## Year 2 – Stone Soup? Ha!

A few weeks ago, there was a sterling performance from 2B in an assembly as they went on a bear hunt! This week it was the turn of 2A as they acted out the story of "The Stone Soup".

It's an old folk tale from long ago. The story is set in a village where people were struggling to get by as there was little food. An old man came by one day and he only had a pot and a stone, but the villagers told him that they had no food to give him. He then proceeded to make stone soup. He then tempted the villagers by pretending that the boiling stone tasted delicious, but it needed a little extra something. Eventually, the villagers, one by one, gave him what little they had. He then shared this with everyone when it was finally ready. Sharing being part of the moral for this story.

This linked with our PSHE lessons about sharing with others as well as our English lessons about fairy tales, settings and story writing. Soon it will be the turn of the other Year 2 classes.





## Year 3

We have had another exciting week in Year 3 and have been incredibly busy. In English, children invented their own stories based on the story of "James and the Giant Peach." They used their imaginations to create new characters and plots for the story. All of the children are excited to become real authors next week! In Maths we have been using the Bus Stop method to help to solve division sums with remainders; it is very tricky Maths work and Year 3 have found lots of interesting ways to solve the sums.



## Year 4

In maths, we have been focusing on the topic of "Area and Perimeter". All children have been able to understand how to measure these, and used their new found knowledge to answer a range of word problems. In English this week, children have been super creative with their adventure stories, developing their use of interesting adjectives, whilst also delving into the use of onomatopoeia. Year 4 has started their new Tudor topic: "Hang onto your Head". Excitingly both classes have drafted a comprehensive list of questions about the Tudor times, and have set about finding key facts. Next week, we will start looking at Henry VIII and all his wives. We have already begun asking ourselves "Why was Henry so mean?"



## Year 4 Tea Party Exhibition

A humungous thank you to all the family and friends that took the time to come into school last Friday for our Tea Party Exhibition of work. The Year 4 corridor really was bursting at the seams, and it was truly spectacular to be able to showcase and share our work with the rest of the Britannica community.





## Year 5

In History this term, we have been learning about the Victorian times. The favourite areas we have learnt about are mines and railroads. We learnt that trains were powered by steam and the creation of railroads changed everything! Also, we were surprised to discover that at that time miners' wages were one of the higher paid salaries. In our lesson yesterday we answered quizzes to see what we have learnt and remembered; it was very fun! We played the quiz twice to see if we could improve our scores.



## Year 6

In Year 6 we have continued to look at plants and animals and are classifying them based on their features. The children had a collection of animal pictures and then worked together to devise their own classification system. They have explored both the male and female parts of flowers, and are now moving on to sexual and asexual reproduction. This biological theme continued in their Maths work. In groups, students rounded and ordered large numbers to create a scaled diagram to show animals that live from high altitude habitats to those at the very bottom of our ocean trenches. In English, Year 6 have finished reading a range of fables and are now adapting these to create their own stories with intriguing titles such as *"The Badger and the Squirrel"*, *"The Hawk and the Chicken"* and *"The Shark and the Crab"*.





## Paired Reading

Today, Year 12 students have begun a paired reading activity with Year 1 children. Twice a week Year 12 will meet and read with younger students. This is to help and support younger learners with their reading and allow students from different year groups to get to know one another, strengthening the relationships at Britannica.

Year 12 students visited Miss Lee's and Miss Morrison's classes this morning to work with the younger children. Year 1 were very eager for the older students to hear them read and were excited to have older pupils working with them. Year 12 also enjoyed the experience and took pride in their new responsibility.

All of the students are looking forward to next week's paired reading session.



## Student Profile

Britannica is a small school and at the same time a relatively new one. I am Ian and I am new to Britannica as well as a newcomer to Shanghai. I am 14 this year and I am really enjoying being in Year 9. In Britannica, I am exposed to a totally new teaching experience. With smaller class sizes you can get lots of attention from the teacher. I have been to three different international schools and have been exposed to larger class sizes. Many think that larger schools are better, and that was what I thought too. However, I have changed my mind after the time I have spent at Britannica.

In Britannica, there are lots of opportunities that you may not get in larger schools. For example; everyone does lots of different After School Activities and there are lots of chances to be part of a sports team. The sports teachers and communities arrange lots of competitions and opportunities for the students. In my case, I have joined the basketball team and we have training every Thursday afternoon, and our coach gives up his personal time at lunch time on Thursday and Friday for the students to play matches in the gym. I appreciate what our basketball coach does for us.

Coming to a new school, I was worried that I would not make any friends. However, that was not the case and I quickly bonded closely with the others in my year group. All in all, Britannica is a great school for being part of a community as well as having good facilities, like a swimming pool.

**Ian Tan, Year 9**



## Secondary Assembly

Well done to all the students who achieved certificates for "Outstanding Academic Achievement" and "Outstanding Effort" this week. It was fantastic to see so many students being rewarded for their ongoing hard work and achievement. A big congratulations to Lynn and Amelia in Year 8 who became the second and the third students in the whole of the Secondary school to achieve their bronze house point award. Well done to all students.





## Britannica Celebrates United Nations Day

This week, Britannica International School, Shanghai celebrated United Nations Day.

With over 42 different nationalities of pupils, Britannica was filled with flags, students, teachers and parents in a multitude of brilliantly coloured national dress.

Each year, United Nations Day is held on the 24th October to celebrate the international organisation founded in 1945. This was a wonderful occasion highlighting the diversity of pupils at Britannica and celebrating our wonderful international community.





# Britannica Celebrates United Nations Day





## Music Department

This month has been quite busy with many things going on in our department. So far we have had a music assembly in Secondary, Britannica Voices 1 and 2 singing in Primary assembly and Britannica's Got Talent. We will also be showing off the talent from "BGT" in the upcoming Pumpkin Palooza so look out for the music and performance area on the day!

### Britannica's Got Talent

This year saw a different format to previous years, as we had four different categories for students to enter into. Those categories were; **Solo Performance, Group Performance, Dance Performance and Miscellaneous** where students could do anything from magic tricks to stand-up comedy. Students were allowed to enter many times, but in different categories. In our finals, we had one student who was both in the Dance and Solo Performances.

Here are the winners of the different categories.

#### Dance

Winner Larysa Guo – Year 4B  
Runner up Emma Lee and Soorin Kwon – Year 4

#### Solo

Winner Erika Yonemitsu – Year 6B  
Runner up Izabella Benovitskaya – Year 9

#### Miscellaneous

Winner Eugen Rothermel – Year 4A  
Runner up Jacky Wang – Year 1D

#### Group

Winner Shadows; Leon, Seven, Jerry, O'Ching – Year 9  
Runner up Beats 4; Fletcher, Philip, Chihiro, Christopher – Year 7/8

We were very lucky to have three guest judges, as well as our own Principal Mr Goodwin. The other judges were Denise Minnifield, Xiaoxiao Jiang and Andrew Bull. I like to say a personal thank you from myself and Miss Churchill for being our Judges. I'd also like to thank Miss Churchill for her amazing singing performance of a couple of Arias whilst the judges deliberated on their verdicts. Lastly, thanks too goes to all staff members who came along and helped back stage making the night such a success!





# Music Department





# PUMPKIN PALOOZA

## WHEN

WEDNESDAY  
1st NOVEMBER  
12Noon — 3PM

## WHERE

BRITANNICA  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
1988 GUBEI ROAD  
NEAR WUZHONG ROAD

• Raffle Prizes sponsored by



RYAN PATRICK O'HARA  
INTERIOR DESIGNER  
MAISONCULTURE@MSN.COM  
+8615618150727



ROSEWOOD  
SANYA



MIX  
basics



THE WESTIN  
BUND CENTER  
SHANGHAI  
上海威斯汀大饭店



SPORTS MEDICINE  
INSTITUTE





## 2017 – 2018 AUTUMN TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



### November 2017

- ★ **Wednesday, 1st November**—12:00noon to 3:00pm Pumpkin Palooza
- Monday, 6th November**—**Friday 10th November**—Anti-bullying Week
  - ★ **Wednesday, 8th November**—Reception Parent Event
- Friday, 10th November**—School closes at 4pm for Mid-term Break
- Monday, 13th November**—**Friday, 17th November** Half-term Break
- ★ **Wednesday, 22nd November**—English/EAL Parent Showcase Event
  - Monday, 27th November**—Energy Week



### December 2017

- Friday, 1st December**—Open Day for Prospective KS1 Parents
- Saturday, 2nd December**—Open Day for Prospective KS1 Parents
- Wednesday, 6th December** – Year 1 Trip to Museum
- Friday, 8th December** – Year 2 Zotter Chocolate Factory Trip
  - ★ **Friday, 8th December** – Year 1 Parents Activity Morning
- ★ **Monday, 11th December**—**Friday, 15th December**—Winter Concert Week
  - Wednesday, 20th December**– Reports Sent Home
- Friday, 22nd December**– Last Day of School (school closes at 12 o'clock)

**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



★ Parents Event   ■ All School   ■ EYFS   ■ Primary   ■ Secondary   ■ School Holiday   ■ Other

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