

BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

4th May 2018
Week 31

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.



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DAVID GOODWIN
PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

In this shortened week, my senior leadership team and I have still been able to take the opportunity to join groups of parents to share with them information on current and future school development, and answer questions and listen to suggestions from our Chinese parents on Thursday and our Japanese parents on Friday. Our final coffee morning of the term will take place on Tuesday, May 22nd and will be open to all parents across the school.

This week saw the start of our end of year assessments, with all students from Reception to Year 9 carrying out GL assessments in English and Mathematics and our IGCSE and A Level candidates starting their formal end of course examinations. We very much look forward to seeing the progress that all students have made during the year. Teachers have also been carrying out our termly EAL audit, where we identify the level of reading, listening, writing and speaking English abilities of all students across the school.

Next week, mums (and dads) have been invited into school on Friday for our special 'Mothers' Day' activities, which we are combining with the opportunity for parents to listen to a presentation about our Secondary School and observe Secondary activities taking place and see some of the excellent work that is being achieved by our Secondary students. We invite all parents to this afternoon Secondary School event. If parents have friends who are interested in joining Britannica in our Primary School, they may also wish to remind them of the opportunity on Monday to join our Primary Open Morning, for prospective Primary Parents. For current EYFS parents we will be holding a special in-house event in a few week's time, to give you more information about KS1 and KS2 and the provision we make as your children move to Year 1 from Reception.

Meanwhile, we hope that parents enjoy reading about the other activities that have taken place this week.



Week in Pre-Nursery

We enjoyed another busy week in Pre-Nursery including celebrating Lucia's birthday and welcoming our new friend, Venessa. This week we continued our joyful exploration of famous Nursery Rhymes with *Hickory Dickory Dock*. Children enjoyed exploring and making their own clock faces with moving parts and engaged with a variety of activities to increase their familiarity of numerals and understanding of the concept of number.

Many children showed a keen interest in mixing colours after reading the story, *Mouse Paint*. Children were curious to experiment with different colour combinations to see what colours they could create. The interactive whiteboard was popular this week, with children enjoying writing numerals and drawing shapes.

Next week we will finish our topic on Nursery Rhymes with the well known classic, *Baa Baa Black Sheep*.

The Pre-Nursery Team





Week in Nursery

This week we have talked about *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* – we have been naming foods from the story, sequencing the days of the week and learning how the caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly. We have made caterpillar headbands, traced our words and engaged in some mindful colouring. We have also talked about how the caterpillar felt after eating so much junk food and how it felt after eating a big green leaf – leading into a discussion about healthy eating.

For the next two weeks we will be concentrating on the story, *Jack and The Beanstalk*.

The Nursery Team





Week in Nursery





Week in Reception

The children had another busy week in Reception and in-between sitting their GL Assessments they have managed to have fun watching their seeds and beans growing, documenting any changes and finally they were able to take the fruits of their planting home. We believe that we truly did plant some magical beans as some were almost as tall as the children!

In Literacy and Mathematics, we have been busy revising what the children have learnt so far and introducing short reading comprehensions. Most importantly the children have been preparing for a very special day next Friday, 11th of May when they will celebrate just how much they love their mums; we hope that you are all ready for a wonderful morning of beautiful singing and delightful crafts.





Week in Reception





Year 1

Year 1 have been consolidating their Place Value skills by 'crossing' or 'bridging' the 10s and 100s in their Mathematics lessons. They are now experts at using Dienes Blocks to identify Hundreds, Tens and Units and worked well in their teams or with their partners to complete the complex place value sums!

In Topic, the children are learning all about Travel and Transport and are embarking on a journey to investigate Steam Trains by recalling some key facts about how and when Stephenson invented the steam train and explain some reasons why trains changed people's lives. We are also continuing to explore the exciting and effective designs of Viking Long Boats and the children are currently designing their own.



Year 2

A short but busy week for Year 2 who continue to work hard and try their best. The children are now more confident at identifying different bones in the body and have even begun to make a model of the skeleton. They have been improving their addition and subtraction skills in maths lessons and all the teachers have been pleased to see them checking their answers. In English, the focus this week has been on grammar and punctuation. Throughout this week, Year 2D have also practised for their assembly. They really enjoyed doing it in front of an audience and were very pleased that they were able to show their speaking skills to their parents.





Year 3

Year 3 have had a shorter week this week because of the national holiday and the GL assessments, but there has still been plenty of learning taking place. We have continued to work on our biographies of King Tut, and have now begun to write our final pieces of writing, which we are all looking forward to sharing with all of Year 3.

We have learnt lots of things about King Tut, including his very short reign as a Pharaoh and all about the artefacts that were found in his tomb; did you know he also married his sister (which was normal in Ancient Egypt)? In Mathematics this week, we have started working on fractions. We have learnt how to add, subtract and order fractions with the same denominators and some of us can even add fractions with different denominators.



Year 4

It has been a short but busy week in Year 4. On Monday, children continued to work in their cross-year groupings on their China project. After 2 weeks, children have now completed four pages of their book. The children are really enjoying using ICT to create the book and working in small groups with children from both Year 4 classes.

In Science, we continue our study of states of matter. This week, children had the opportunity to conduct an experiment investigating how different temperatures affected the melting time of chocolate, using thermometers, foil tin, heated water and trays. Children have been working hard on their GL assessments, and have shown real maturity in the process, trying their best and not giving up. Science is the final assessment, which will be completed on Monday.





Year 5

This week, Year 5 have conducted two different experiments in Science. In their unit about Material Properties, they are now investigating which substances are insoluble, and which dissolve in liquid. They tested a range of materials such as pepper, salt, sugar, and even wasabi and tomato ketchup! Throughout, students were very careful to ensure the experiment was scientific by only changing one thing and keeping everything else as a constant. They then did a follow-up investigation in order to determine whether different factors including temperature and the amount of stirs would affect the time taken to dissolve. Year 5 are shaping up to be diligent little scientists!



Year 6

Year 6 have continued to work on their Mind and Body topic. The children have explored the skeletal system and labelled diagrams with technical vocabulary. In Art, the children have shown great progression from their early observational drawings of the cranium to their final imaginative pieces; incorporating mixed media.





2018 Shanghai Youth Open

This year at Britannica our Secondary Ultimate Frisbee team have been working hard to improve their skills and compete against top teams from around Shanghai. In a short space of time, I have watched the transformation from a group of players who had never thrown a Frisbee to a team who are capable of working together as a unit to execute complex plays. The culmination of the Shanghai Frisbee season is the Shanghai Youth Open, this is the largest competition in China with the best teams from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Hong Kong all coming to the Shanghai American School, Pudong for two days of intense competition. It is a testament to our team's hard work and good spirit on the field that the organisers have decided to invite us to this year's event. As a team we are looking to accomplish three goals by competing in this tournament:

- Learn from the best youth players in China
- Gain valuable experience of what it takes to compete in a two day event at such a high level
- Play with good spirit and have fun!

I can't wait to watch our students push to achieve these goals, let's go Knights!

Mr Mckennie

Secondary Lacrosse

The secondary lacrosse ASA is already in its third week and I would love to share some of the experiences and highlights with you. Lacrosse is a team sport played with a lacrosse stick and a lacrosse ball. Players use the head of the lacrosse stick to carry, pass, catch, and shoot the ball into the goal. Outdoor or field lacrosse is played on a soccer-sized pitch. Athletic movement is most similar to soccer, basketball, and field hockey, except the ball movement, is both at the ground and eye level.

Especially for international students, it is interesting to know that there is a large lacrosse community at universities across the world. Personally, lacrosse gave me many fantastic opportunities and therefore I am thrilled to grow the game at Britannica. For most of our students, it was the first time they have picked up a lacrosse stick. Our 'laxers' are currently focusing on the fundamentals through playing games. Hopefully, in the near future, we will have a Britannica lacrosse team that competes against other schools in the city.

Lastly, I would like to thank the China Lacrosse Association for borrowing their equipment. China lacrosse is hosting lacrosse clinics throughout the city for all age and skill levels (no equipment is needed).

It is very easy to get engaged in lacrosse. If you would like to learn more about these clinics, please contact the Youth coordinator Jim Garner at jmgarner@hotmail.com or complete the survey to register:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2PZCKT>

Mrs Van Balveren





Year 7 at the Movies (English)

Year 7 have been having a marvellous time in English, learning all about film posters and trailers, in their current Media based project. They have been exploring different conventions of genre and sub-genre, along with analysing how film makers portray their ideas through film posters, trailers and synopses. In pairs, students have been creating their own ideas for films based within a genre of their choosing. Be sure to come and see the fantastic work that they're working on at the Secondary Showcase next week! Who knows... we may have the next Tim Burton or Stephen Spielberg amongst us?!

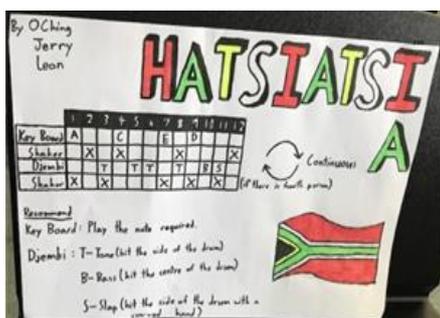
Mr Couchman



Expressive Arts Department

This week in music we have been finalising some of our projects and in Year 9 they have been working on their Hatsiatsia's. This is a Traditional African piece normally performed with a type of metal bell but we have chosen to use a variety of African sounds using the Djembe, xylophone and some shakers.

Here are some of the charts or scores that were written:



A Reminder

Just a quick reminder of Rehearsals for all HONK ASA this weekend starting at 9.15am for 9.30am and finishing at 12.30!

Estelle Owens, Director of Expressive Arts



Mother's Day

Friday 11th May



Cooking Classes and Spa Day

AN INVITATION TO STUDENTS AND MOTHERS FROM
YEAR 5 TO YEAR 10 TO PARTICIPATE IN A SPECIAL
BRITANNICA CELEBRATION
TIME: 11AM TO 12:45



Secondary Open Day

INTRODUCTION TO OUR SECONDARY PROGRAMME
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SECONDARY SCHOOL SUCCESSES
EXPERIENCE EXAMPLES OF SECONDARY LEARNING
LOCATION: THEATRE / TIME: 1PM TO 3 PM

*Lunch to be provided for participating parents
in the Secondary Learning Centre at 12:30.*

Email conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com for details

BRITANNICA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI
www.britannicashanghai.com



Meet our Mother's Day Chefs

Luciana Rizzo from L.A.L.A. la cucina di Luciana



Luciana Rizzo is an amateur chef and teacher at L.A.L.A. la cucina di Luciana.

Grown up in a Southern Italian family, she learned cooking and tips from her grandma from who she inherited the love of genuine food and family traditions.

She then moved to Veneto where she worked in a restaurant for 5 years. This is where she learnt as much as she could from watching and helping the chef.

Her cooking studio in Shanghai started in 2012 with the aim for sharing her passion with other people. Lessons include pastry course, western basic cooking and advanced fine dining, young chef courses, themed workshops for birthday parties, Christmas, Halloween, Easter...

She works as a teacher with other cooking studios and constantly improves her cooking skill, collaborating with several executive chefs in Shanghai.

She also provides services as a private chef, consultancy and catering for banquets and parties

Smita Singh from Curry Connection

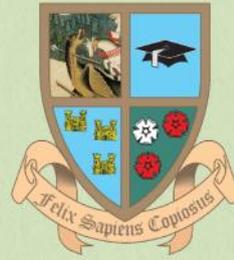


Starting off as an MBA working in two of the largest news and entertainment network companies in India, something was always amiss and soon I learnt that my place was not behind a desk but in front of eager students with whom I wanted to share my culinary skills, experiences as well as tips and tricks that I had learnt in the kitchens of my wonderful mother and my super chef grandmothers. Raised in New Delhi and hailing from Calcutta, my taste buds learned to explore, love and experiment with cuisines, from all regions across the country. And it is this love for the food that inspires me to cook.

The touch of various ingredients, kneading the softest dough, the fragrance of freshly minced mint leaves, the sound of mustard seeds cracking in hot oil, the vibrant colour of spices, the golden glow of saffron, the chopping of onions and even the watering of my eyes while doing that. I love it all.

Apart from running my own cooking class by the name of Curry Connection, I have been honoured to be associated with Community Center Shanghai, Sprout Lifestyle and Geneva as their culinary instructor and guest chef. And now my heart and eyes are set on the dream and an opportunity to open an Indo-world cuisine restaurant rooted deeply in traditions.

Chef Smita Singh



Britannica school is pleased
to invite you to join
Lu Ming Tang Experts for a fun
beau-tea experience including:

- Preparation of your
customized organic
tea-powder mask
(please come without make-up)
- Learning tips to get a
healthy & radiant skin
- Fun games

Complimentary event

*for year 5 - year 13 - daughters & mother's only
All participants to receive a Lu Ming Tang goodie bag
One session in English - one session in Chinese*

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Friday May 11th from 11 am to 12:45 pm
@ Britannica International School



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2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



May 2018

Monday, 7th May—Open Day for prospective Primary Parents

★ Friday, 11th May — Mothers' Day special events

★ Friday, 11th May—Secondary showcase and Open Day for current secondary parents

★ Tuesday, 15th May—KS2 Swimming Gala

Tuesday, 15th May—Year 8, 9,10 Mandarin trip to water town

★ Wednesday, 16th May—KS1 Swimming Gala

★ Thursday, 17th May— Reception Swimming Gala

★ Friday, 18th May—Secondary Swimming Gala

★ Tuesday, 22nd May— Coffee Morning for all parents

★ Thursday, 24th May—Honk Performance

★ Friday, 25th May—Honk Performance



★ Parent Event All School EYFS Primary Secondary School Holiday Other

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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