

BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

25th May 2018
Week 34

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



DAVID GOODWIN
PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

We have enjoyed a busy week at Britannica preparing students for their three performances of 'Honk!'.

The performers peers, local kindergarten children and parents have all enthused about the super performances that all students finally gave. After some anxious moments last week, when a few students were still struggling with their lines, we were delighted that it all came right on the night!

My special thanks go out to all staff who have really pulled together over the last few weeks to bring this production to the stage. The support of everyone involved has ensured its success and congratulations to our Expressive Arts teachers - Ms Owens, Ms Churchill, Ms Mayes, Ms Leong and Mr Donald.

Final preparations for our Sailing Trip to Mallorca have also been made, again with a little anxiety, as we wait patiently for the last few visas to be completed.

A letter has also gone home to all parents this week about the opportunity to join us on a Football/English Language trip to Manchester City Football Club in the UK during the Summer holiday. We very much hope that some of our eager 9-17 year old footballers will be keen to attend.

Next week we have our Movie Night on Tuesday, which is now a full-house, Storytelling Workshops on Tuesday and Wednesday for all students in Pre-Nursery to Year 9, and Year 6 are off to the 'Mystery House' on Friday for their termly trip. It's looking like an exciting school as always!



Week in Pre-Nursery

What a lovely week of discovery it has been down here in Pre-Nursery. The children have enjoyed continuing to discuss the activities they like to do on the shoreline, with playing in the sand, making sand-castles and collecting shells being popular choices. They have been developing their cooperative skills as they worked together to build sandcastles both inside our sand trays and outside in our big sand-pit. Many children also enjoyed 'fishing' and matching what they caught to the same fish on a diagram.

We have also been investigating animals that live on the shoreline, the children have been especially interested in the hatching eggs of sea turtles as well as crabs making their homes in shells. This week's focus song introduced children to a variety of sea animals including octopus, sea-horse, blue whale, shark and turtle; the children have enjoyed exploring all of these animals through their play.

The Pre-Nursery Team





Week in Nursery

Who would have thought a Tiger would come to tea? And who would have thought he would eat everything on the table, everything in the cupboard and everything in the fridge, leaving nothing for Daddy's tea! We have been reading the story of *The Tiger who Came to Tea* by Judith Kerr this week to introduce our topic of pets. We have had some funny conversations, talking about whether it was suitable to invite a tiger to tea and whether he would even fit in our homes!

The children have shared with us about their own pets and we have even made our own using recyclable materials. This week, we have been learning to select and use resources independently and to create the ideas that we have in our mind; of course the children have had a little help to make their models, but the activity encouraged the children to think about what they wanted to make and to choose the appropriate resources to do so.

Learning through play is so much fun! We hope you enjoy our photographs from this week.

The Nursery Team





Week in Nursery

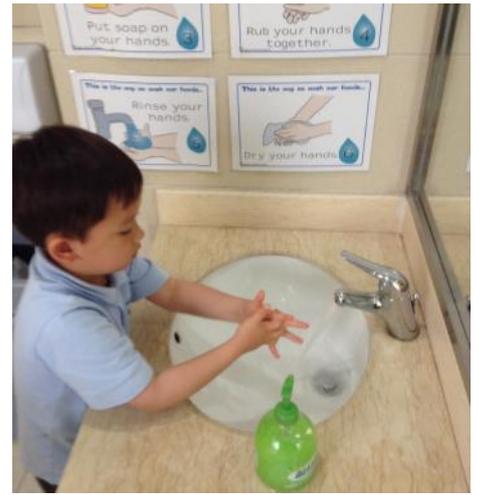




Week in Reception

Fizz, splash, splat! It was all about onomatopoeia this week as the Reception boys and girls played with words and sound; water sounds in particular. Did you know that sip, gargle, gulp and glub are just some of the noises that we can make as we drink from our water bottles!

We discovered the many uses of water and why it is so important for our health and hygiene. We have been practising the best way to brush our teeth and discovering how easily germs can be spread if we don't wash our hands regularly. In Mathematics we have been busy calculating subtraction word challenges and in literacy we have been learning lots of new vocabulary and revising our sounds.





Week in Reception





Year 1

Year 1 began our exciting new topic this week 'Amazing Animals'. We look forward to learning about different animal groups; their similarities and differences; the huge variety of habitats in which they live; why some animals are endangered or have even become extinct and we will be writing persuasive letters to help protect these animals. This week, we have begun by learning about why and how we communicate and the essential components of a letter. We linked our last topic by comparing life cycles of mammals with those that we created about plants. In Maths, we have been learning the names and properties of 3D shapes and digital and analogue time. The children also thoroughly enjoyed watching the dress rehearsal of the *Honk!* production. It's another busy but fun week at Britannica!



Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy this week and working extremely hard. In English, we have started writing the first chapter of our own stories. We have some about ghosts in a haunted house, a seahorse under the ocean and even a young boy at school. Throughout the year we have enjoyed learning about phonics in our different classes. This week, we took time to practice our spelling words in class using different spelling games, a favourite being 'silly sentences' where the students have to use their spelling words and create a sentence to make the teacher laugh.

In Maths, we have been exploring different number puzzles and sequencing numbers. We really enjoyed making puzzles to give to our friends. The children have been working hard throughout the year in PE and, during swimming this week, we focused on their diving skills by retrieving objects from under the water and also completing underwater swimming obstacle courses





Year 3

This week has been full of *Honk!* rehearsals and the production is looking great. The majority of Year 3 will either be acting on stage or singing as part of the chorus, but all of them have done amazingly well and we cannot wait to see the full production. It has been great to hear the students singing the songs as we walk around school, and as they sit quietly continuing with their learning. As well as the preparation for *Honk!*, the students have still been busy researching about Ancient Egypt in order to create a leaflet. In Science, we continued to work on our topic of forces. This week included looking at magnets and investigating which objects in our classroom were magnetic (apparently Mr Carr isn't magnetic). In Maths, the students have been ordering and partitioning decimal numbers.



Year 4

Hello and welcome to the end of another busy week in Year 4. We have been really enjoying ourselves within our current topic all about China. It has been great to be able to refine our ICT skills using computers to work collaboratively in order to successfully locate factual information. Everyone has been having so much fun! In Science, we have been busy learning about the 7 life processes, whilst starting to think about how we can look after ourselves within our daily lives, thinking about teeth and eating. With this in mind, Year 4 are eagerly looking forward to their upcoming trip to *Sproutworks*, which ties in beautifully with this science topic. In English, children were working collaboratively to write a simile poem all about teamwork-enjoying the sunshine whilst playing team games. Children across both classes have been working hard on their reading, whilst also focusing on learning spellings each night.





Year 5

This week, Year 5 have finished their explanation texts and been refining their reading comprehension skills. In Maths, the children have been using protractors to measure angles as well as use known facts to calculate and identify the missing angles in a shape or line.

The class have also really enjoyed playing quiz busters, an online game, where the children are in two teams and have to answer questions correctly to try and beat the opposing team.



Year 6

Through our research into Charles Dickens, we have turned back time and explored the Victorian Era. Children have researched what it was like to live without sanitation, and the problems this caused. We discovered how difficult it was to make just simple prints when compared with today and the use of computers. The children then tried their hand at weaving and found out how arduous and sometimes frustrating it was to create just a small a piece of fabric. However, the children were very proud of their creations both in print and in fabric. In writing, we are exploring the text of Charles Dickens and looking at cliff-hangers and trying to create sentences which leave the reader with a voracious appetite to carry on reading. In Maths, to tie in with our PSHE/Science theme of Health, 6A created a survey to find out about the health habits of Years 5 and 6. Overall, 28 students took part and we were able to present this data and analyse it in order to find trends between the different classes. Want to know which class is the most active after school, which class likes far more fizzy drink than others, or which changes their socks the least? Just ask one of us!





GCSE Japanese

In Secondary Japanese, Year 10 and Year 11 students have been studying together in Japanese class this term. Year 10 Students have been working especially hard to prepare for the IGCSE Japanese First Language Examination. The examination focuses not only on vocabulary and grammar but also on extended writing in the form of an essay.

IGCSE examination season has now arrived and it is, therefore, a very important time for all the students taking the examination. All the best to everyone sitting the exam!



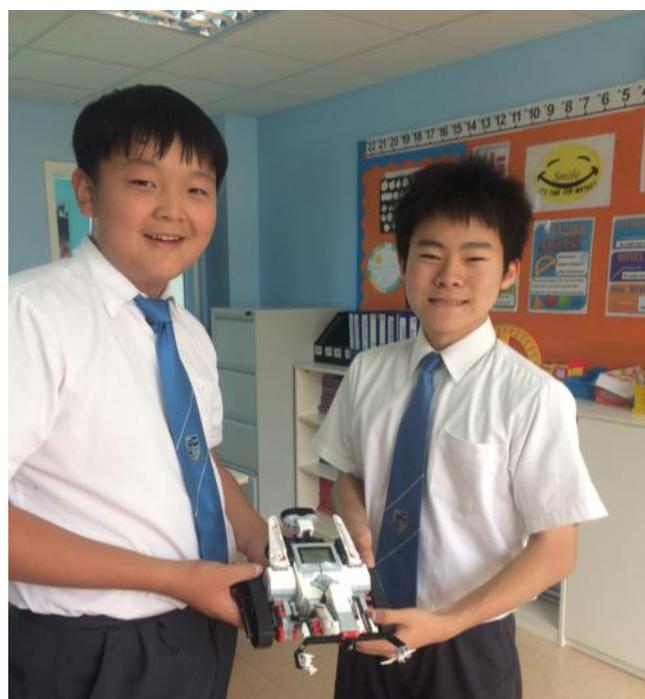
After School Activity — Robotics

Next year we will be offering Robotics as an After School Activity. Two Year 10 students are currently piloting the activity and are enjoying the process of building and programming the robots. Students get the opportunity to build different robots and then learn how to program them to complete a set of commands.

At the beginning, students will build robots by following clear instructions. After they have built a few they will be able to design bespoke robots to satisfy a particular task. They will code the robots to move around and follow set paths and, as their coding skills improve, they will get the robot to become aware of its environment. This leads to programming the robot to stop at walls or obstacles, follow a particular colour and even attack an enemy robot.

We are very much looking forward to rolling out the program to more students next year.

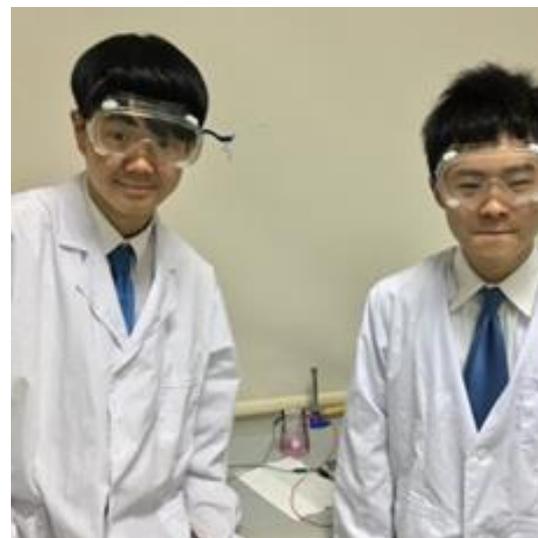
David Rosenberg
Head of Mathematics





IGCSE Chemistry

Our students have been learning about oxidation and reduction reactions. This week they investigated a type of redox reaction, electrolysis. The aim was to build an electrolytic cell and to carry out the electrolysis of sodium chloride solutions. Students identified the gases produced.



Frisbee Tournament

Last weekend our students travelled out to the Shanghai American School in Pudong to compete in the Shanghai Youth Open Frisbee Tournament. Going into this competition our team had very clear goals established and the students worked hard to achieve them all weekend.

Despite the rain our students played matches against teams from around Shanghai, Songjiang, Hangzhou and Beijing, testing the skills that they have been developing all year. There was plenty of opportunity to mix with top players from all around China and learn valuable information from coaches of the other teams. The students made many new friends over the course of the weekend that I'm sure they will keep in touch with.

Sylvia organised a fantastic team dinner that was enjoyed by all with lots of laughs shared along the way. The students are already looking forward to competing in the event next year to see how much progress we can make against this benchmark that was set. In reflection in practice on Monday evening, the team concluded that they achieved all of the goals that they set out to achieve, and as such I would consider this weekend to be a great success. Well done everyone involved!





Britannica International Summer Vacation Student Organised Trip Manchester City (UK) Football Language School

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to share with you details of a Summer vacation trip that we are organising for Britannica boys, aged 9 to 17.

Recently, Orbital Education has developed an affiliation with Manchester City Football Club and the City Football Language School that uses their training facilities at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester.

We are therefore planning to take a group of boys to Manchester at the end of the Summer vacation, under the supervision of Mr Joshua Carr, to join their two week Football/English Language course.

Current plans are to fly from Shanghai on Friday 27th July and arrive for our first night's residential accommodation in Manchester on the Friday evening. Organised activities would then start on Saturday 28th July, with the full football and English training programme commencing on Sunday 29th July. Students would return to Shanghai on Sunday 12th August. Mr Carr would act as chaperone throughout the course, but all activities, coaching and teaching would be carried out by the City Football Language School.

It is likely that students from other Orbital schools will also attend this course.

The cost of the full course, accommodation, meals, flights and most other costs would be in the region of 35,000RMB per child, for the 15 day residential trip. We believe this is relatively good value for the quality and length of the course and the provision that is being made.

We attach a brochure giving more details of the course.

We are currently gauging initial interest and therefore invite you to discuss this opportunity within the family and reply back to us if you are potentially interested in your son joining the trip.

Please email Ms Jessie Xie at Jessie.xie@britannicashanghai.com to express this initial interest. The closing date for expressing interest is **Wednesday 30th May 2018**.

Kind regards

David Goodwin





Residential Trip Photographs

With students still talking about all the amazing experiences they had during this year's residential trips, we would like to share with you photographs of some of the adventures had by Years 6-10 in Yaolin and Years 4 & 5 in Nanbeihu.

Pictures can be viewed via the following link and accessed using the code: 2096

<https://pan.baidu.com/s/15KPUG6LkVxAjdOepzKSjuQ>



World Oceans Day

On Friday, 8th June, Britannica will take part in 'World Oceans Day'. On this day people all around the world celebrate and honour the ocean, which connects us all.

The day aims to raise awareness as to how we can support our planet to start creating a better future. Working together, we can and will protect our shared ocean!

On the day we would ask for pupils to come into school wearing something a little extra 'blue' and make a donation of 5RMB which will be given to *The Oceans Project*.

We will also be holding a 'Zero Plastic Lunch,' and this will mark the launch of our new plastic recycling initiative.



Storyteller Visit

We are all super-excited about our visiting storyteller, Morgan Schatz Blackrose, next week.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Morgan will be in school delivering 'story concerts' to all classes from Pre-Nursery to Year 9; engaging and enthusing students with the creativity and imagination that comes from storytelling. She makes use of music and narration to bring stories alive for students.

Morgan grew up and lives in Australia and is passionate about the use of storytelling within education. She has a particular interest in folktales and stories that are passed down generations.

This will be a great experience for students and they are bound to take a lot away from the sessions next week.





Honk! The Musical

It has been an amazing week here at Britannica. Families, students and friends have been treated to stunning performances of singing and dancing in this year's school production, Honk! The Musical.

On Wednesday, 23rd May the cast of HONK! The Musical had their dress rehearsal, performing to a live audience from Magnolia Kindergarten and Britannica's Year 1 pupils. Last night the cast performed to an excited crowd in the school theatre to everyone's delight. We are all looking forward to tonight's final performance and we are sure the cast will once again give their all and bring the house down with their many talents.

We would like to thank all of the pupils for their hard work and anyone who has contributed to these amazing shows.





Honk! The Musical





Honk! The Musical





ENTREPRENEURIAL DAY

**Business Plans to be
handed in
by May 22nd**

**Applications open to
all students of
Britannica**

**Entries Handed to:
Rebecca.hatton@britannicashanghai.com
Conrad.botha@britannicashanghai.com**



**PRIZE FOR BEST AND
MOST PROFITABLE IDEA**



6VIP Disney Tickets

Britannica International School

Designed by Robyn



2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



May 2018

★ Monday, 28th May - 4B Assembly

Tuesday, 29th May - Storytelling Workshops

Tuesday, 29th May—Student Council Movie Night

Wednesday, 30th May - Storytelling Workshops

Friday, 31st May - Year 6 trip to Mystery House



Friday, 1st June to Sunday 10th June - Mallorca Sailing Trip

★ Friday, 1st June - 1B Assembly

★ Monday, 4th June – 6B Assembly

Tuesday, 5th June - Year 3 Bio Farm Trip and Year 2 Natural History Museum Trip

Wednesday, 6th June –Year 1 Trip to Chang Feng Park

Thursday, 7th June—Reception Trip to Aquarium

Friday, 8th June - Year 4 Sproutworks Trip and Nursery Trip to the Zoo

Friday, 8th June - 'World Oceans Day.'

★ Friday, 8th June-1C Assembly

★ Monday, 11th June-3C Assembly

Tuesday, 12th June –Bee Friendly Day

★ Wednesday, 13th June - House Football "World Cup"

★ Parent Event All School EYFS Primary Secondary School Holiday Other

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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An Orbital Education School

1988 GUBEI ROAD, SHANGHAI 201103 CHINA

Tel: 021 6402 7889 Email: admissions@britannicashanghai.com

Web: www.britannicashanghai.com