



BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

8th September 2017
Week 4

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,

It was with pleasure that we welcomed KS2 and Secondary parents along to our "Meet the Teacher" events held on Wednesday. We thank those who attended and who benefited from an introduction to the key stages given by Ms Mustoe and Ms Hatton, along with presentations from the Primary Form Teachers and an introduction to a number of the specialist teaching staff in the Secondary School.

The After School Activity programme started this Thursday, with a record number of activities being offered by the school and we look forward to hearing feedback on these from students.

Letters this week have also gone out inviting students to audition for our annual Britannica's Got Talent Competition, the final of which will be held later in October.

This week also saw our one-to-one music tuition programme restarting after the summer break and I look forward to hearing the new students who are joining this year's programme and will be our next budding Britannica musicians.

The sports programme at Britannica is now also well underway, with squads in a number of sports starting to meet and getting themselves prepared for the inter-school competitions that will start very soon.

As always there is plenty for every child to get involved in at the school, regardless of their interest or ability, with the benefits of our inclusive educational programme extending to every child in the school.

Do look out in this newsletter for the excellent photos from our House Crazy Hair and Hat Day, which celebrated the launch of our House activities for this academic year.



Week in Pre-Nursery

It's been very exciting this week in Pre-Nursery as I observed our youngest pupils already using new words to communicate and express themselves with friends. All children are well settled and now participating with confidence in all classroom activities and have acquired the skills and security to carry out all classroom routines. Well done Pre-Nursery!

We experimented with sound and rhythm as children played excitedly with our new outdoor musical station and examined geometry as we looked closer at circles and made circle shapes. We enjoyed our new book focus, Eric Carle's "Head to Toe", learning all about ourselves, body parts and action words...our key phrase "I can do it!" We extended our learning across the EYFS Art and Design area with blue hand printing with children experimenting with the use of their hands, placement, texture, and colour. Our children are showing signs of joy and comfort in Pre-Nursery, singing along to favourite songs and are expressing themselves freely in movement.





Week in Nursery

We are in full swing of 'All about me' this week. Children have been learning to create lines and circles by painting a self portrait of themselves, using a mirror to help. As a class, we have been talking about what we look like and our similarities and differences, particularly focussing on if we are a boy or if we are a girl.

In Mathematics, we have been exploring the number three by talking about our birthdays and counting objects to three, such as "Can you give me three bears?" The children have been singing songs such as 'three little-speckled frogs', 'three little ducks' and 'three currant buns' to support their learning of number.

We are continuing to focus on turn taking, sharing and using kind words and hands, which will be an ongoing focus throughout the year. We have had another busy week exploring our new Nursery classes! We hope you enjoy the photographs.





Week in Nursery





Week in Reception

Triangles, circles, rectangles, and squares- shapes are everywhere. This week, Reception have been having fun in maths with identifying 2D shapes and their properties. There has been shaping hunts, shape pictures and shape fun to be had everywhere!

In Phonics, Reception have looked at the sounds 'i, n, m and d' with lots of interactive fun such as making dotted dinosaur paintings. Phonics has also helped us in our topic 'All about me' this week where they children had to use their noses (n) as part of a senses activity. They had to identify which sense they would use for different objects and activities, then sort them into the correct category.

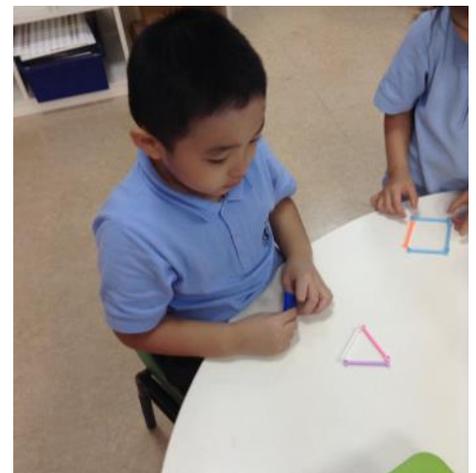
Alongside learning about the senses, Reception have looked at their bodies, naming different parts and working as a whole class to create a life size collage of a person.

This week, Reception A students completed their third swimming session and have now reached the half-way point of this block. Students are now relaxed and at ease in the water, they love playing games such as "the fisherman" or "the plants get taller" and most of them now have fun jumping in the water from a standing position and putting their face in the water to find all the fish in it.

They have used different apparatus to help develop different actions and are learning how to control their buoyancy to help them adjust their posture. They have demonstrated the ability to lie on the surface and their kicking is starting to become powerful and noisy!

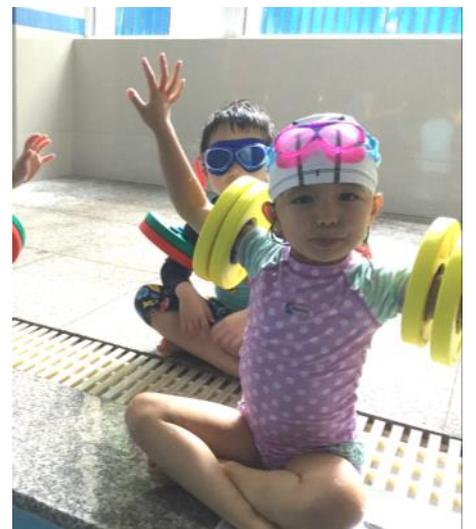
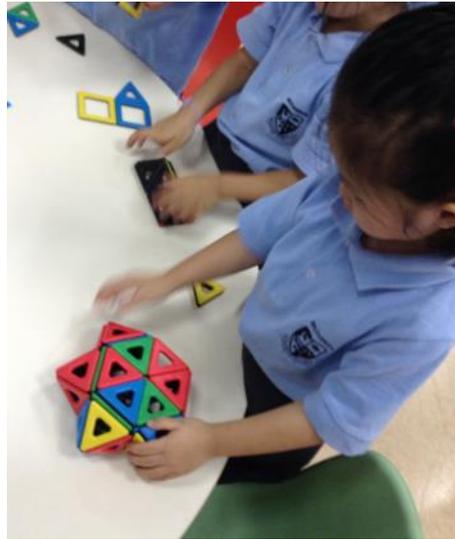
We are very pleased with their progress and we can imagine how they will become integral members of our swim squad in the future! Go fish!

We would also like to give special thanks to the parents who are coming to help us in the water to ensure greater supervision and to help students perceiving the swimming pool has a safe and secure environment.





Week in Reception





Year 1

This week we have been continuing to expand on the children's knowledge of letter formation, sounding out and blending. Combining kinaesthetic, visual and auditory teaching and learning we have reinforced their knowledge of 'teens' numbers and progressed to understanding number bonds and addition by counting on. Within our theme 'Me, Myself and I', the pupils have been fantastic at using adjectives to describe body parts and showed great ability to find corresponding capital and lower case letters. In Creative Writing, we have looked at the moral of Aesop's famous story 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf', with a focus on building their vocabulary and understanding of colours to describe the parts of Wolf's body.



Year 2

In English, Year 2 have been learning more about adjectives and used these to describe both creatures and landscapes. The children particularly enjoyed using adjectives to describe a character for their partner to draw! We have also been continuing our work on "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" and have started to write our own stories which include going on a shark hunt, bat hunt and even a T-Rex hunt!

In Maths the children have been using partitioning to add 2 digit numbers. We have all been working very hard and some of our Year 2's have been able to add 4 digit numbers! Fantastic!

Our topic this term of Food and Farming is now in full swing. We have been thinking about how to categorise different foods and sorting them into different groups using a Venn diagram. We sorted them into things you can eat and things you can drink. Other groups decided to sort them by healthy and unhealthy food. The children have also been learning about the World's 7 Continents and learning different ways to help us remember their names.





Year 5

This week in Maths we logged onto Education City, a website full of different activities and games covering many of the curriculum areas. The classroom was a buzz of excitement and tension as the children raced against the timers (and each other!) to answer as many questions correctly as they could.

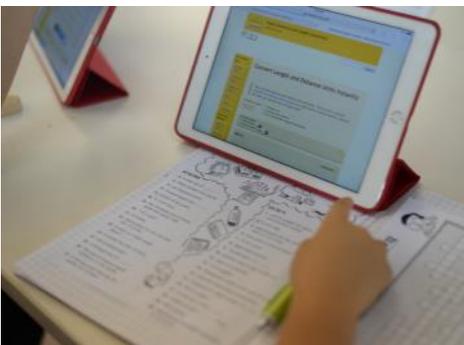
“Yesterday, Mathematics Education City was AMAZING! I wasn’t expecting it to be so fun but it was! My favourite part was the PlayLive. I was a joint third place with Yusuke in the world leaderboard!” – Jerold.

“Yesterday’s maths lesson using Education City was pretty amazing. I especially enjoyed PlayLive, where you have to solve sums to race snails.” – Min Jong



Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring different forms of letter writing. We started by exploring the features and language used in informal letters and will continue by looking at formal letters. When posed the question “Why would we write a formal letter?”, the consensus was clear “To bring about change.” Children now know that every letter has a function and are eagerly planning and crafting their letters for a range of purposes and audiences. In Mathematics, children were able to explore the relationship between units of measurement using iPads. This was used as a knowledge base to begin converting between standard units.





Britannica's Vision and Mission

It was a joy, on Wednesday evening, to be present at the Meet the Teacher event, and to meet new and old parents. At the beginning of her Secondary presentation, Ms Rebecca Hatton rightly brought our attention to Britannica school's Vision:

- Inspiring place of learning
 - Create internationally-minded leaders of tomorrow
- Collaborative and inclusive international school community
- Develop students' confidence, independence, and academic achievement

And Mission:

- Caring and close community,
 - Build mutual respect,
 - Provide outstanding learning experiences,
 - Promote independence and high academic achievement
 - Celebrate achievements and successes in all fields,
- Recognising all students' individuality and range of skills and talents

In so many of our practices, we see evidence from all quarters that these really are the fundamental precepts that we are building our school upon. When you look closely, it is obvious: the relaunching of our Houses and the pupil leadership opportunities that that will bring, our Crazy Hair day, our close personal tutoring, our emphasis on global citizenship, our academic rigour and our commitment to close links with our Parent Body; these and more all attest to our commitment to Britannica's Vision and Mission statements. Over the next few weeks and months, we aim to help all our students explore and unpack this Vision and Mission a little more for themselves – watch this space!



Kim McGregor
Vice Principal

Year 9

In PSHE Year 9 have been focussing on how the modern world would seem to somebody from 2,000 years ago. They have all been writing diary entries imagining that they are somebody from the past who has been transported to the present.

In Form Time Year 9 have been working on their assembly which they are creating and presenting to the rest of the Secondary school. Since their assembly is on the 11th of September, they have picked a very relevant topic on the heroism of ordinary people after the attack on the Twin Towers in New York. They have approached this topic in a sensitive and mature manner, working well together as a team to allow them to educate their fellow pupils on the bravery exhibited by everyday people in moments of danger or tragedy.



Student Profile

“My summer was fabulous! After our last school day, I went to the airport to catch my flight to Russia. I noticed straight away that Moscow has really changed, and became more beautiful whilst I was away in Shanghai. In Moscow, I spent a week visiting the art museum and spending time with my family! We also walked in my favourite parks and went to the cinema. I even carved out some time to see my old classmates and best friends.

After I spent time in Moscow, my family and I set off to a small Turkish city called Bodrum, on the coast of the Aegean Sea. This city has very nice views, fresh air, clean sea and many other beautiful things. We stayed at my Aunts house. I spent most of the time at the beach playing with my friends, swimming, etc.

In total, my summer was very exciting and thrilling!!! This year, I am very excited to meet my new teachers, start the new year and reunite with my friends.

Izabella Benovitskaya





Secondary PE

It has been a great start to the year for our Key Stage 4 and 5 students in PE. This year, as they are older they have been allowed a little bit more freedom to take ownership of their learning. In our first class together we surveyed students to find out the activities that they most wanted to take part in and worked cooperatively to create a pathway that would be relevant to the needs and interests of our students. Each 6-week activity block the students will be offered a choice of two activities. In the first block, the choices are badminton and fitness. In badminton, we have been working on developing our main strokes of serve, overhead clear, drop shot and smash. As well as using these strokes to implement tactics and strategies such as moving our opponents around the court.



Britannica Music Department

I would firstly like the opportunity to introduce the Music Department staff – Miss Churchill and Miss Owens. Both of us are new to Britannica and are looking forward to making the Music Department and vibrant and creative space for students. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us as we would be happy to chat about your child's needs and progress.

We are very excited this week to welcome in the first of the Music 1:1 lessons from Concord Music. Yesterday we had Piano, Violin and Guitar lessons happening and today we have Flute, Drums, and Ukulele Lessons. The teachers from Concord this year are Mr Gavin and Miss Joanne for piano, Mr Keven for guitar and ukulele, Mr PG for ukulele, Mr Viktor for drums, Miss Irene for flute, and Miss Xixi for violin.



If you are still interested in being part of the program please make sure you fill in the form and pay directly to the Finance Office, as lessons cannot commence till Concord Music receives payment.

BRITANNICA's GOT TALENT

Auditions are being held from the 18th September through to the 27th September. Students have been asked to fill in the form and return it to the Music Department either to Miss Churchill or to myself (Miss Owens).

Categories to enter in....

- 1. Solo musical performances** – Either playing by yourself or in a duet **or** if you are accompanied by someone **or** using a backing track to sing/ play solo.
- 2. Group musical performances** - At least 3 or more members in the group, can use a backing track or play instrumental music.
- 3. Dance** – Both solo and group performances can be in this category
- 4. Miscellaneous** – This includes any dramatic performances, poetry reading, magicians, illusionists, juggling, acrobatics, comedians, and impersonations, etc....

Entry forms are available from the music rooms 306 and 308 or from their Form Teacher in Primary.

Miss Owens,

Director of Expressive Arts



House Crazy Hair and Hat Day

Today, Britannica was filled with colour, decorations and excitement for House Crazy Hair and Hat Day.

Teachers and students were dressed in their house colours, make-up and crazy hair to celebrate individuality, uniqueness and diversity within our Houses. Parents and Family members, who joined for refreshments, were delighted to watch a crazy hair parade by Britannica's House Charities; The Red Phoenix, The Green Dragons, The Blue Lions and The Yellow Tigers. The school wide event took place across Britannica's Gubei campus and it was amazing to see the tennis court, the theatre, the indoor playground, the sports hall and the canteen brimming with colourful crazy hair and happy faces. The House Mascots certainly kept everyone filled with energy!

We would especially like to congratulate:

The Blue Lions – Winner of the Best Dress Award

The Yellow Tigers - Winner of the Team Spirit Award

We hope you enjoy these photos of another great event at Britannica.





Crazy Hair Day at Britannica



**Got a talent?
Think you've got what it takes
to share it with a live audience?**

Well now is your chance!



★ BRITANNICA'S GOT TALENT

Auditions Start: Monday, September 18th

All talents will be considered!

**Juggling; performing a magic trick; singing a song; dancing; snapping;
speaking in different languages; solving difficult equations quickly...**

1988 GUBEI ROAD,
SHANGHAI 201103, P.R. CHINA
Tel: 021 64027889
上海古北路1988号



Auditions to be held in the Music room
Auditions Start: Monday, Sep 18th
Competition: Wednesday, Oct 25th
**Information and registrations
for auditions: Contact Ms Owens**



2017 –2018 AUTUMN TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



September 2017

Wednesday, 13th September— Roald Dahl Day - Year 3

Monday, 18th September— Britannica's Got Talent audition week

Friday, 22nd September— Open Morning for current parents

Wednesday, 27th September—School closes at 3pm for Mid-Autumn Festival



October 2017

Monday, 2nd October—Friday, 6th October—National Day Holiday—School closes

Monday, 16th October — Friday, 20th October— House sports week — Parents Form meetings

Tuesday, 24th October — United Nation's Day

Wednesday, 25th October—Britannica's Got Talent

Friday, 27th October — Key Stage 1 Maths Day



November 2017

Wednesday, 1st November—Pumpkin Palooza



ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

■ All School ■ EYFS ■ Primary ■ Secondary ■ School Holiday ■ Other

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