

BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SHANGHAI

NEWSLETTER

23rd March 2018
Week 26

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,

After the excitement of last week's activities related to Book Week, we have enjoyed what in Britannica terms has been a relatively quiet week. This was much needed as we prepare for the many events that are taking place in our final week of term. Years 4 to 10 will be boarding buses on Monday to take them to Yaolin and Nanbeihu for their week long expeditions, while Years 1, 2 and 3 will be doing preparatory work leading up to and following on from their Shanghai day trips. Early Years, of course, have been abuzz for many weeks now in their preparation for their Giant Spring Tea Party which has a whole array of activities taking place throughout the morning on Thursday. I think parents will be having as much fun as the children at that event! Our one very important event this week was our celebration of the progress and attainment that our musicians have been making in their 1:1 lessons with visiting Concord teachers. On Wednesday afternoon we held a very glamorous concert with 20 individual students performing over 30 different musical items. Our photos in this week's newsletter are a testament to the confidence that students demonstrated, while giving their performances to a packed Theatre of parents, fellow students and teachers. We are proud to award all participating students a trophy in recognition of their excellent performance and participation. Do watch out for our daily WeChat messages next week, which will be updating everyone on the expeditions that are taking place. Do also enjoy this week's many photos in the newsletter.



Week in Pre-Nursery

This week we enjoyed wonderful individual and class group photographs! Children were brave, shared their smiles and danced for the cameras! Well done our young learners in showing us your best selves.

Thank you to parents who have shared their amazing photographs taken during the Book Week Parade, some have been included below and a class display will be created to remember this great day of fun and discovery.

Children explored and investigated more about their world this week using our integrated play spaces. We talked about the life cycle of frogs, their pond habitats, what they like to eat and what sort of things frogs can be seen doing.

Children observed tadpoles swimming and leap frogged around the classroom exercising their gross motor skills and coordination. We counted frogs and pond pebbles to the playful rhyme, Five Little Speckled Frogs.

Next week, we will enjoy our Flowers and Tea Parties topic in preparation for our upcoming Early Years Spring Tea Party. Please be sure to start creating your Spring Hats in time for the event and competition. Posters with more details can be found on the notice board in Pre-Nursery and will be emailed to parents. We look forward to this special day next week!





Week in Nursery

The weeks here in Nursery fly by so quickly! We are at the end of our Nursery Rhyme unit and what fun we have had. The children have been busy learning different songs, rhymes, and actions which has boosted their vocabulary, turning them into confident little talkers. We are noticing that the children are using their English words more and more and they are becoming active in their own learning and asking questions such as: "Why was Humpty Dumpty sitting on the wall?!" The children have been busy cutting, mark making and sequencing the rhyme and even talking about where eggs come from. Today we made scrambled eggs, yum yum!

Next week, on Thursday, 29th March, it is our Spring Tea Party. Please prepare a Spring Hat at home with your child, ready for our hat parade on the day. We look forward to seeing you all then!

The Nursery Team





Week in Nursery

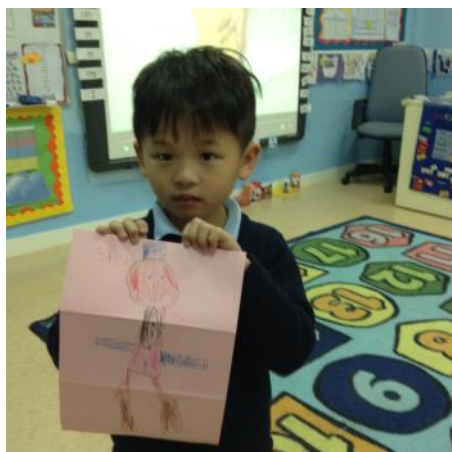




Week in Reception

Reception have been delving deeper into the characters of Julia Donaldson this week as they have been looking at what characters can be. Using the tricky word of the week 'my' the children have been inventing their own character from a story and writing lovely sentences to go with them. We have shared our characters with our friends and talked about what we liked about them. In Reception A, there has been a lot of talk about sea creatures in rock pools as a crab has been sharing a shell. In Reception B, Stickman has been determined to be anything but a stick! And in Reception C, the Highway Rat has been stealing a lot of cakes!

As the week draws to a close, Reception are now looking forward to next weeks adventures and the EYFS Spring Tea Party. We hope you all have your hats ready to come celebrate with us!





Week in Reception





Year 1

Yet another busy week has flown past! In Year 1 we have continued to observe the progress of our bean seeds, taking pictures and discussing the various stages in the growth of plants. We have also looked at the features of animals from different continents, comparing those of grasslands in North America and those from the African savannah. We used a VENN diagram to help us sort them into groups. Each Year 1 class have also been furiously writing their own fictional stories, including 'WOW' words and their knowledge of the structure of traditional tales.



Year 2

The Year 2 children have come back from the excitement of Book Week with enthusiasm to start back to our normal classroom work. In English we have focused on the children's grammar, using had, has or have, and we have been trying to develop our sentence writing through the use of verbs and adverbs. The children worked in pairs to create some brilliant, well thought out sentences.

During Maths, the children have been exploring the world of fractions. This week, we looked at fractions of shape, including $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$. We enjoyed giving each other our own fraction questions and found that there are some shapes you cannot divide into different fractions.

During Topic, we have been learning where material comes from. We have been using the computers, accessing the website to collect information about different materials. We combined our ICT skills with our English note-taking skills to write about where these materials come from. For example, did you know that cotton comes from the fruit of a plant and that silk is made from worms?!





Year 3

We have had another exciting week in Year 3. As part of our 'Rock and Roll' topic, we have been learning about volcanoes. To link into this we invited parents into class on Wednesday to help their children to make their own volcanoes; we had so much fun. On Thursday we painted them, adding lava and making them very sparkly! We can't wait for our Science lesson next week where we will be turning them into real volcanoes!



Year 4

It has been a busy and exciting week in Year 4, with the children very excited about their upcoming trip next week! In Maths, children added and subtracting fractions, often with the need to find lowest common denominators to proceed, while they also had fun exploring Roman Numerals. In the last week of our Korea focus in Internationalism, children had the opportunity to learn Hangul, and write their names, and their families, using the Korean alphabet! One child also assisted acting as a teacher! With the residential next week, this is the final week of classroom teaching, so thank you for your support during the term, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer Term.



Year 5

Year 5 are continuing their unit on Materials. Their brief was to choose the best material to be used in a school lunchbox by testing insulating and conducting properties. Each group wrapped a different material around an ice pack and recorded how the temperature changed over a 20 minute time period. The materials that were best at keeping the ice cold were, therefore, the best choice for the lunchbox. Even though the class did not record accurate results to prove which material was the most successful, they learnt a lot about how to design a fair test. It is very important to only change one thing (the independent variable) and to keep everything else the same (the control variables). For our next experiment, we will make sure to plan so that the investigation is as fair as possible.





Year 5



Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed book week so much that students were keen to write reports about their favourite books. They were able to introduce the plot, characters, and settings, and then gave a review based on their personal connection to the book. Some were even able to research about the author and use ICT to complement their work. In mathematics, 6A are now busy translating and reflecting shapes using their previous learning on co-ordinates. 6B have been able to begin making their Living Walls using a range of material either bought or collected by students. They created stable frames using wood and are now solving the problem of how to attach the plant pots and watering systems. Year 6 students are extremely excited about the upcoming residential trip with Secondary to Yaolin.



Britannica Charity Fund

We are delighted to announce that, so far, we have currently raised **115,000 RMB** for the Britannica Charity Fund! Thank you to everyone who supported our all of our charity events this year, including last week's book fair. Well done and congratulations to everyone!



Year 7 Geography

This week, Year 7 have been learning all about a special type of bar graph used in Geography called a population pyramid. We studied how these graphs look very different from different countries depending on how rich or developed the country is. Students enjoyed showcasing their understanding by making their own population pyramids using Kitkats! However, I think they enjoyed eating the chocolate more!



Secondary EAL

With the excitement of last week's Book Week over, EAL students have been examining their favourite books. Year 10 EAL students have been writing short analyses and sharing their book recommendations with their classmates. Which book review was your favourite?



Secondary Mandarin

In Key Stage four, students are exploring the use of fun and efficient online learning tools to develop their Mandarin beyond the classroom.

Year 10 IGCSE students are excited and proud to read daily news in Mandarin on *The Chairman's Bao (TCB)*, an online Chinese learning platform which provides news-based, HSK graded reading materials. These reading materials not only help to enhance students' reading comprehension skills with a targeted HSK level (1-6+), but also help them to get an insight into the Chinese culture and society.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 GCSE Chinese class are enjoying using Quizlet.com to review the syllabus vocabulary in preparation for the upcoming exam in May.

Studying hundreds of words in Chinese is no easy task, but the e-flashcards, games and quizzes on Quizlet turn vocabulary study into a fun, engaging and interactive experience.

Here is what our students say about their online learning experience:

"I think it is a fun and exciting way to learn Chinese. It has helped me improve my reading comprehension, my understanding of Chinese culture and news. All of this is suited towards the level you are on." (Francis Hawkey, Year 10)

"I think that the TCB is a very efficient website, because we can know about China and learn Chinese at same time. Also we can know how to pronounce the words." (Ryunosuke Matsumura, Year 10)

"I find Quizlet as a good way to help revise words as it compacts all the syllabus words into flash cards and mini-games, it also has a small test to see if I had learnt anything." (Kia Yi Phua, Year 11)





Expressive Arts Department

This week in the Expressive Arts department we have had our concert for Music 1:1 students and our rehearsals for our Up Coming Musical HONK.

Britannica Spring Instrumental Concert

On Wednesday we had a fantastic concert in the Theatre with 20 students from our Music 1:1 lesson program. All the students that performed did very well with ages spanning from Year 1 up to Year 10, on piano, violin, flute, uku-lele, guitar, and drums. Thanks go to all the Concord teachers who also performed and have been teaching these students this year.

We hope you like these photographs from the event.





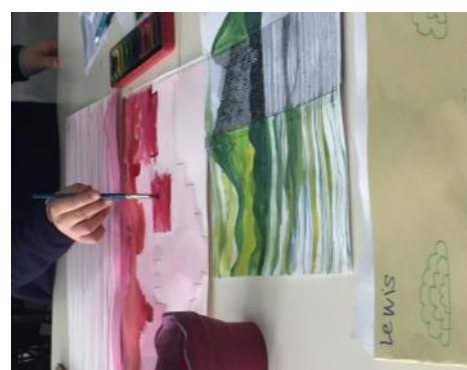
KS 1 & 2 ART Newsletter

Students in Year 3 have been learning to paint using watercolour paints.

Our topic is Landscape paintings. Students have composed paintings to create depth in their landscapes by including distant mountains in the back ground, rolling hills in the foreground and features such as rivers, paths or roads of house or trees in the foreground to lead the eye into the scenery.

Year 3 classes have explored blended shading painting techniques to create tints and shades in their landscape paintings. This further gives the illusion of depth in a landscape composition. For water reflections, students have experimented with different brush strokes and brushworks such as hatching brush marks.

Our inspiration has come from the traditional ancient Chinese landscape paintings of the Tang dynasty. We also compared this with Impressionist style landscape paintings of Monet and Van Gogh.





Ultimate Frisbee

It has been another jam-packed month of sport here at Britannica! Our secondary ultimate frisbee team is coming to the end of a busy spring league season where we managed to fit in eight matches in the space of a month. After taking part in our maiden season in the fall 2017 league it has been interesting to come up against some of the same teams this time around. Most of them have commented on the remarkable amount of progress that our team has made in such a short space of time and we are starting to command the respect of some of the best teams around Shanghai. Monday night also seen us cross the Shanghai boarder into Jiangsu to play one of the neighbouring schools. This match seen some of our fringe players step up to the mark and really put forward their case for a starting position in the next game, I also seen great progress made by our female athletes on the team. We have given all we can to this spring league now all we can do is wait to see if we have done enough to get an invite to the Shanghai Open in May which is the biggest Ultimate frisbee tournament in all of China with teams coming from Beijing, Hong Kong and Guangzhou to compete. Well Done Knights!



Swim Squad

This week has concluded a long sequence for the swim squad where swimmers have been working on their freestyle and more particularly on how they could improve their technique. We hope this hard work will benefit them after the holiday as the team will compete in numerous meets, the first of which will be held at the Oriental Sports Aquatic Centre for the Shanghai long course swim meet. This venue held the World Championship in 2011. The facility consists of a 3m deep, 10 lane, indoor 50 metre swimming pool with a 2000 seating capacity and an adjacent 8 lane, 25 metre-swimming pool. This will provide our swimmers with a great opportunity to be in a pool where top world swimmers previously competed.

On a final note, in order to enhance the strength of our team and to develop good team spirit, we have made an effort to more clearly define the roles of our captains by associating some key words that encapsulate their duties. Let's hope that they will lead their mission and guide our younger members in the best possible way to achieve together better results.



Swim Squad



CCCaptain's roles description

Caring:

- Undeniable passion for the sport, for competing, and for their teammates.
- Put team's success ahead of their own needs and concerned with the well-being of all team members.
- Treat all teammates with respect and recognize the contributions made by all team members.

As a caring captain, if you or a teammate has a problem, you should approach your coach and that teammate in private and in a positive way to address the situation and find a solution. Alongside, the captain should be the one to stop rumour spreading and gossiping. These kinds of behaviours destroy team chemistry.

Courageous:

- Willing to step up.
- Set the example for the rest of the team.
- Your actions must embody the core values of the team, especially during times of adversity.
- Be a model of courage and dedication to your teammates by setting lofty goals and working hard to reach them.

As a courageous captain you must show that you trust your teammates and coaches, and are also willing to hold teammates accountable to working hard and being prepared.

Consistent:

- Effectiveness as a model of consistency.
- Hold to a standard of giving 100% effort in every practice and game.
- You cannot cut corners and earn the respect from teammates and coaches that is necessary to lead the team effectively.

As a consistent captain, you also have an authentic style of communicating. Some lead by their actions, while others are more vocal. Importantly, to be a consistent captain you must remain true to your own style of communication and not try to be someone else.

Find out what is happening at schools worldwide within the Orbital Education Group.

Ski Lessons at The English International School Moscow West and South-West Campuses

Here in EIS Moscow, we are now in our third year of ski lessons, and the PE department has worked hard at developing a wide and varied curriculum that includes an ever expanding list of activities.

Skiing was introduced in January 2016 and has proved to be hugely popular, especially with the students who have joined us from countries that do not traditionally have access to snow. Many students coming from some parts of the Middle East, Africa, Asia and even South America have never tried or even seen these types of winter activities and we felt that is important that they experience this sport, especially here in Moscow where they have a rich heritage of excellence in all aspects of downhill skiing.

We are very lucky to have an excellent training facility near to our school, and they provide first rate tuition with both Russian and English speaking instructors, that ensure that almost all our students from Year 3 up to Year 10 are now very competent and confident skiers. Skiing is a very demanding and skillful activity and I am very impressed with how easily our students have taken to it, especially the younger ones, who are showing an amazing amount of balance and coordination in this physically demanding sport.

Fancy trying skiing? I am sure we could make space for any of our wonderful Britannica Shanghai students if you want to join us next year!





EYFS SPRING TEA PARTY

WHEN

THURSDAY

29th MARCH

9:30AM — 12NOON

WHERE

BRITANNICA

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1988 GUBEI ROAD

NEAR WUZHONG ROAD

Britannica EYFS would like to warmly welcome all EYFS parents to join their children in a morning of fun at our 'Spring' themed Tea party. Expect face painting, yoga for children, balloon making, photographs with the spring bunny and much more. Wear your best spring hat ready for our British Spring Tea Party.



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SPRING HAT COMPETITION

**Design a Spring hat for the
EYFS Spring Tea Party**



**Winners to be announced at the
EYFS Spring Tea Party**

Thursday 29th March 2018



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2017 – 2018 SPRING TERM BRITANNICA SCHOOL CALENDAR



March 2018

Monday, 26th March — Friday 30th March – Expedition Week for Years 4 to 10

Tuesday, 27th March – Year 2 Trip to Textiles Museum

Tuesday, 27th March — EYFS Open Day for prospective parents (9:15-12 noon)

Wednesday, 28th March—Year 1 Trip to Shanghai Botanical Gardens and Year 3 Trip to Jump360

★ Thursday, 29th March — EYFS Spring Tea Party (all EYFS parents welcome)

Friday 30th March—End of Term 12:00noon



★ Parent Event All School EYFS Primary Secondary School Holiday Other

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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