



## Middle School Literature

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The Grade Six class has been reading and responding to numerous short stories over the past six weeks. They have been learning about various literary devices and the elements of short stories. After the break, we will begin our first novel study. In Language Arts, the students have been developing their skills in writing through the study of grammatical structures and various writing techniques. They have been writing descriptive paragraphs and will soon begin writing their own short story as an extension to the unit we have just completed. They have also been



working with Ms. Megan's Grade Two students as a part of our "buddy" reading program. Grade Seven students have been studying folktales, myths, fables, and legends from around the world in Literature. Students have been reading, responding and learning about the structural components of this genre while also examining numerous literary devices. In Language Arts, each student has written his or her own folktale in order to put their creativity and writing

skills to the test. Students have also been reviewing important grammatical structures and writing techniques as a part of the L.A. program. As further extension of the unit, the students taught their reading "buddies" in Ms. Amanda's Grade Three class about folktales. Following the break, we will begin a novel study (*The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton).

The Grade Eight class has been immersed in the study of the short story. They have been examining the structure and literary devices associated with this genre. After the break, we will begin our first novel study (*The*

*Lord of the Flies*. by William Golding). Grade Eight students have been working on business writing, friendly letters and descriptive writing. They have also been reviewing grammatical structures. After the break, the students will begin writing a short story as an extension activity to the short story unit they have just completed in Literature. The Grade Eight students have also been working with Mrs. Carla's Grade Three students as a part of our "buddy" reading pro-

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### Bake Sale:

Thanks to the students and parents of the Third Grade, for a successful first bake sale. This week's bake sale made 120.85 euros, congratulations and keep it up!

### Menu:

To celebrate Halloween today, the kitchen served a special Halloween menu: pumpkin soup, pumpkin risotto, chicken meatballs, beets, potatoes, mixed salad and carrot and pumpkin cake.

### Dogs:

Please note that it is forbidden to bring dogs of any size into the school courtyard.

### Clothing Contribution:

Special thanks to all the families who contributed to the clothing drive for the "Associazione Bambini di Trieste"

## Upcoming Calendar:

**Halloween Parties:** Today, Early Childhood celebrated Halloween in the main entrance hall. Elementary school celebrated Halloween from 2 to 3.50 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

**MS Disco:** Please note that the MS Halloween School Disco will take place today from 4.00 to 7.00. p.m.

**Holiday:** We wish to remind you the school will remain closed from **Monday, November 2nd to Friday, November 6th 2009.**

# PTA News

**PTA meeting:** the next PTA meeting will take place on **November 18th**, at 2:15. PTA members would appreciate if you joined us so that we may show you how our meetings run. It will also be a great occasion to answer any questions you may have.

Our annual **Christmas potluck dinner** will be on **December 4th** at 7:30 pm. Stay tuned for more details!

Please, don't forget to return your PTA dues to classroom reps, if you haven't already done so!

**Thanks** to Mr. Michael who is doing a great job taking pictures! Here's one he took at the bake sale.

**Thanks** to all the parents who decorated the school for Halloween, bought food and presents for the parties, and chaperoned the disco!



## Middle School

Compiled by Middle School Teachers

**Science** Middle School Science has been exciting! In Grade Six, we just finished a unit on map making, Grade Seven just finished studying about cells and their structures; Grade Eight just wrapped up a unit on the characteristics of waves. All Middle School Science classes are now studying on how to perfect their technique of scientific writing!

**Math** This week in Grade Six, students have been analyzing graphs. They have been learning how to make graphs to represent data visually. Making comparisons, seeing trends, and determining how results may have been influenced are a few of the skills they have been using. Grade Seven finished learning about the basic algebraic properties needed to solve equations and inequalities. We also listened to a very "lively" math song which hopefully helped them remember different problem solving strategies. Lastly, Grade Eight students started out learning about conditional and biconditional statements. Now they are applying deductive reasoning and laws of logic to write paragraph proofs.

**Social Studies** Grade Six started out the year learning what History is and how to study it; including how to differentiate between primary and secondary sources as well as how to spot bias. We then moved onto The Renaissance and are currently working on The Reformation. Grade Seven started out learning about the Industrial Revolution and its impact on not only Great Britain but the world at large. We then examined the British Empire and its people and are currently working on the unification of Italy and Germany. Grade Eight started out the year learning about the Treaty of Versailles and its impact on Europe. We then looked at The Great Depression and The Dust Bowl and how they affected millions of Americans and the world. Currently, we are studying Germany's Weimar Republic and the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party.

### Italian

**Italian Six:** In grammar, after quickly reviewing phonics and spelling, we are analyzing the parts of speech (articles, nouns and verbs). In "anthology," we are studying the genre of "fantasy," working with the texts through oral and written work. In literature, we are reading and discussing works from Calvino, "*Le piu belle fiabe italiane*." We are discussing the characteristics of myths in the Italian elective. Currently we are working with a paraphrased edition of the *Illiad* and addressing the question of true "Homeric authorship."

**Italian Seven:** We are studying prepositions and the syntax of simple sentences. As "anthology" studies literature by genre, we are currently investigating "fantasy" works. After reading and discussing the text in class, we've begun drafting a written response. We dedicate one hour a week to discussing current events and other news stories of interest to the students. In the Italian elective, we analyzed the birth of Italian literature, "from Latin to the vernacular." The texts we're currently using are: *Il '200* (S. Francesco), *Il Dolce stil novo* (Dante, Cavalcanti, Guinizelli), the realistic-comedy poetry of Cecco Angio, and paraphrased passages of Dante's *La Divina Commedia*.

**Italian Eight:** Right now in grammar we are practicing logical analysis with various exercises. By focusing on various anthologies we are learning about characteristics of specific genres we are currently reading a science fiction novel called *Giallo*. We are completing the book *The Sentella*, by F. Brown a very unique style of science fiction. We are also reading books and engaging in discussion about marginalized or exploited populations by viewing the film *Oliver Twist*, and discussing the author Charles Dickens.