



# The Alabarda

International School of Trieste Community Newsletter | October 23, 2009 | V. I issue I.

## Grade 1 Celebrates Diwali

Karyn South and Tiffany Davis

As part of our work on festivals & celebrations around the world, Grade 1 have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. Diwali was celebrated on October 17th & marks the start of a new year in the Hindu calendar. Hindus all around the world celebrate this festival of light in a number of special ways.

On Wednesday, Grade 1 held a Diwali day. Students participated in a variety of traditional activities. Some of us wore traditional Indian dress - including Ms. Karyn. & Ms. Tiffany! We learned all about the origins of Diwali by reading the story of Rama & Sita and the ten headed demon Ravanna. Students retold this traditional tale in their own words using puppets which they had created in class. We all cooked a very tasty traditional Indian sweet called coconut burfi with Ms. Tiffany whilst listening to traditional Indian music & enjoying the fragrant smell of incense. Special candle holders called divas were created using clay as at this time of year Hindus light many candles to remember that good always triumphs over evil. Many Hindu families also create intricate patterns (rangoli) outside of their homes using col-

oured rice or flour. Grade 1 students created mini versions of these. Working with a partner many of us imitated the traditional art of mehndi.



Both Mr. Jason & Ms. Janet visited us and students decorated their hands with the mehndi designs. Even Kinder 5 joined us to learn a little about Diwali. It was a very busy but fun filled day!

On Friday morning, students presented the first Elementary assembly of the year! Although we were all a little nervous it was very exciting! The

students all worked very hard! Everyone did a wonderful job remembering their lines, singing the Diwali song and performing a special Indian style dance!

After all of our hard work, we invited our families into the classroom to join us in the celebrations! The Grade 1 students worked very hard teaching their family members all about the traditions behind Diwali. Thank you to all the Grade 1 families who joined us on Friday & helped to make the day a very special & memorable one!

### This week's Alabarda:

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### Clothing Contribution:

We will be collecting Autumn/Winter clothes in the entrance hall for the "Associazione Bambini di Trieste" October 26th . We rely on your precious help. Please help this wonderful cause!

### Bake Sale:

Thanks to the students and parents of the Fourth Grade, for a successful first bake sale. Congratulations and keep it up!

### Teacher Conference Times:

Enclosed you will find the weekly conference time schedule for teachers. Appointments may be booked in the Office.

**Menu:** To celebrate Halloween, the kitchen will prepare a special Halloween menu: **pumpkin soup, pumpkin risotto, chicken meatballs, beets, potatoes, mixed salad and carrot and pumpkin cake.**

## Upcoming Calendar:

### Friday, October 30th, 9.00 to 11.00 A.M.

EC will celebrate Halloween. Please bring the children to school already dressed in their costumes at 8.30 AM. Classes will end regularly at 3.05 p.m.

### Friday, October 30th in the cafeteria from 2 to 3.50 p.m.

Elementary School Halloween party.

### Friday, October 30th in the cafeteria from 4.00 to 7.00. p.m.

The Middle School Halloween School Disco (Gr.6-8)

### Monday, November 2nd to Friday, November 6th 2009.

Holiday, school will be closed.



FAMILY DAY



FUND RAISING DINNER

## PTA News!

Dear IST families,

The PTA is very happy to have this opportunity to communicate with you! As you may already know, the main function of the PTA is to help the school through various volunteer activities such as welcome dinners, International Days, bake sales, support to teachers, decorations, and the school calendar. The PTA also organizes fundraising events and donates funds for supplies and equipments to the school. Last year we raised more that 6,000 Euros and the school bought 14 digital projectors that have been placed in the classrooms. The PTA welcomes all the support you can give, with your opinions, your time and your skills. We would love to hear your ideas on how to fundraise over the coming year. If you are interested in becoming involved in the PTA, please e-mail me and I will contact you as soon as possible!

**Silvia Spinelli Barrile PTA President**

[Silvia9297@yahoo.it](mailto:Silvia9297@yahoo.it)

## Elementary School and Early Childhood

Compiled by EC and Elementary teachers

**Kinder 2** In literacy we started exposing the children to the alphabet beginning with the letters A through D, as well as focusing on building a basic vocabulary through the study and recognition of different objects beginning with each letter. In math we have begun counting, focusing specifically on numbers 1 and 2 and recognizing a correspondence between number and quantity. We have also been learning about the daily weather and the changing seasons from Summer to Autumn.

**Kinder 3** Currently, we're learning about the autumn characteristics, such as the different colors of leaves and the change in the weather. We're focusing on numbers and quantity, asking each child to identify numbers and to separate groups of items into different amounts. We've also started working on our first shape, the circle. The students are learning to recognize and draw circles.

**Kinder 4** As the weather gets colder, we're watching the leaves change color and fall to the ground. In Science, we're looking at all different types of nuts such as acorns, walnuts and chestnuts. In Art, we've been making squirrel puppets to "eat" all the nuts we've collected. We're also working our Math skills such as counting, sorting and making patterns. During Story time, we've been reading books about cats to focus on "c" words. This month, Kinder 4 has also been excited to start visiting the Gym on Tuesdays where we've been learning to play fun, new games.

**Kinder 5** Kinder 5 have been busy in the classroom preparing for Halloween. Last week each child made a book illustrating the life cycle of a pumpkin. We estimated the weight of our classroom pumpkin: 6kg! We then predicted if it would float or sink in water and found out (to the children's great surprise!) that it floats! We have worked on the sound of letters Pp and Nn. Each week we discuss the sound and action of the letter, its name and how we write it.

**Grade 2** We have started our writer's workshop and the students are well on their way to becoming proficient writers that can develop ideas, draft, revise, and edit their own work. In math, we are practicing double digit addition. We are studying maps and our community in social studies and after our walk in Opicina, we created our own maps. In science we are studying animals and their habitats. We have also been encouraging friendship and community within the classroom using songs and movements.

**Grade 3** We travelled back in time exploring what it would have been like to live in prehistoric times when there was no written language. Students made cave drawings using only natural paints made from different kinds of soil. We gathered materials to build our tools for survival and thought about how the discovery of fire changed early man's life.

**Grade 4** In writing, we are now great at organizing ideas, the "storms in our brains", with brainstorming and writing topic sentences for paragraphs. In math, we can now round and estimate up to a million! In science, we have created a landfill to learn more about how trash affects the environment and in social studies we have debated the good/bad parts of Athens and Sparta. In the classroom we always remember to "Stay Positive and Productive!"

**Grade 5** This week the Fifth Grade took a field trip to the Carso. We walked from IST to a covered area in the Carso to enjoy a snack and learn about the various tree and animal species we would be researching that day. In a wooded area, the students plotted their research area, used their scopes to locate and identify various species within this area and recorded their findings. After an afternoon snack and a discussion about what was learned in the Carso, we walked back to school.

For didactic enquiries please schedule an appointment with Director Jason Anklowitz (Tuesday-Thursday, 10 am. or 2:30-3:30)

For administrative enquiries please refer to Paola Zonta.