



The Alabarda

International School of Trieste Community Newsletter | November 13, 2009 | V. III issue III

High School Science

Rob Parish

All high school science students started the year with a quick review of the scientific method, using the metric system, scientific writing, and designing and following experimental procedures and writing lab reports. In Ninth Grade and Eleventh Grade Biology I, students have started their study of ecology and ecosystems.

All students spent the first quarter collecting species and constructing their "Bottle Ecosystems", a self contained ecosystem of plant and animal, aquatic and land organisms from the Carso (Stagno di Banne, and Villaggio del Fanicullo). We will be observing the ecosystems as they change and adapt throughout the year, and use them to study many different ecological concepts.

In Tenth Grade, Chemistry students have started out the year learning the many different ways the Periodic Table of Elements is organized, and more importantly how to use it as a tool for the remainder of the year in Chemistry. Students have also shown they have a basic knowledge of atomic

structure and how to represent information and how to illustrate each element. In the unit's final project, students will be creating their own periodic table. In Twelfth Grade, Biology II students have picked up right where they left off with their study of the human body.



So far this year, students have gone into great depth on the Nervous, Muscular, Skeletal, Immune and Endocrine systems. Some highlights of the past few weeks have included students completing an in depth lab on involuntary and voluntary nerve actions and reactions (input, integration, and muscular and skeletal output). Students also dissected a chicken wing, looking

for vestigial structures in the skeletal and muscular system with that of humans. Currently, students are finishing up their presentations on controversial topics involving the immune/endocrine systems including steroids in sports, growth hormones in food, and the rapid spread of global diseases.

-Photo Courtesy of Giulietta Tisminetzky

This Week's Alabarda

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Nominations for the Election of the Parent Representative to the Board of Directors:

We wish to inform you that any parent may present their candidacy to run for the position of Parent Representative to the Board of Directors. **Parents wishing to run for these positions may bring their nominations, together with a brief statement and/or curriculum vitae, to the school office no later than 3:00 p.m. November 16th.** No academic or professional titles are required, but candidates can mention any experience and/or skill that makes them suitable to the position. **The elections will take place Friday, November 27th.** The ballot papers will be handed out at school on the election day – one per child. Each parent/tutor can vote for two candidates, one representing the Italian families and one representing the non-Italian ones, regardless of their nationality.

Please contact Silvia Spinelli (silvia9297@yahoo.it) for queries.

Upcoming Calendar:

TEACHER IN-SERVICE: The next staff development in-service day will be **Friday, December 11th** when school will end at **12:00 o'clock noon**, just after lunch. Please note that we are organizing a babysitting service for the Early Childhood children until the end of the school day (4 p.m.) - with the exception of the month of January when we will have the "Open Day". Elementary, Middle and High School students will have the possibility to stay at the school up to 4 p.m. doing recreational and group game activities organized by the PTA. Anyone interested is asked to fill in the form you have received.

CLOSING OF FIRST QUARTER: The first quarter will close Friday, November 14th. **Report Cards will be distributed Wednesday, November 25th.** For Kindergarten and ES the Cards will be handed out to students and must be signed and returned to the teacher by the following week. **MS / HS Report Cards will be mailed home or can be collected by parents in the Office on November 25th after 2.00 p.m.**

Parent-Teacher Evening: The first Parent-teacher evening will take place on **Thursday, December 3rd from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** The aim is to give parents the opportunity to see the teachers and talk about the first Report Cards. **You may schedule your appointments at the reception starting Monday, November 30th.**

BAKE SALE: Thanks to the students and parents of Gr. 2, we collected €145.33. Congratulations and keep it up.

PTA News

Hi IST families,

the **PTA meeting** will take place **Wednesday, November 18th** at 2:15; the agenda will be as follows:

1. Feedback from the Committees and the Vice Presidents;
2. Balance and distribution of PTA funds;
3. High School funds ;
4. AOB.

You are all welcome to participate!

The **Christmas Dinner** will take place **Friday, December 4th, at 7:30 p.m.** It will be a potluck dinner and there will be a **raffle!**



Christmas Dinner 2008

High School

Math Lynelle Durrell and Matt Schvaneveldt

Grade Nine students recently finished a chapter on evaluating and graphing exponential equations, using scientific notation and other exponential expressions to illustrate multiplying and dividing powers, and raising products, quotients and powers to a power. Grade Ten has been looking specifically at using linear systems to predict maximum profit. If any of our students are going to open up a pizzeria they are now equipped with the method of knowing how much of each kind of pizza they need to sell to make a profit given any number of limitations. Grade Eleven has been studying how to use scatterplots to make predictions. They can use these strategies to evaluate the price of an apartment per square meter. They can look at average trends in Trieste and then evaluate an apartment they are looking at to see if it is over or under the trend prices. Grade Twelve has just finished finalizing Algebra and Trigonometry skills to prepare them for Calculus. They are capable of applying their Trigonometry skills to evaluate the wavelengths of sound. Or, they can see how changes in pitch are actually related to the sine curve. They will be taking this to understand limits soon.

Literature Carrie Pierson

Grade Nine Literature class opened the year reading Night by Elie Wiesel. The students showed a strong connection to the book and class included a number of passionate discussions of the major events and themes from the story. Having felt a strong connection to the author, the students chose to write a letter to Wiesel in order to ask additional questions. The class will continue developing their writing proficiency as well as begin to study Of Mice and Men in the coming weeks. In Grade Ten the students have finished The Catcher in the Rye as well as undertaken a creative writing project. Having read the protagonist's point of view in the novel, they've evaluated the elements essential to creating a well-defined character in literature and created characters of their own. Since the break, they've begun to read the Greek tragedy Antigone and will spend the next weeks studying the key parts of ancient theatre. Having begun the year studying 1984, the Literature Eleven class reviewed thesis paper construction and completed a theme paper as a final assessment to the unit. Having worked on grammar and punctuation review as well as completing informal writing drills as practice, they have recently begun to study Hermann Hesse's novel Siddhartha. In Grade Twelve class completed their first literature unit: William Holding's Pincher Martin. Having worked hard at reading comprehension for this challenging text, they showed a strong ability to interpret and evaluate the book. Now, the class is reading Shakespeare's King Lear while reviewing the culture and drama during the Elizabethan era.

Social Studies Jon Civitella and Jeremy Strickley

In the Ninth Grade we started with the Cold War. We examined the tension between Britain, France, and the United States and Russia and China. We also looked at capitalism and communism and the eventual collapse of the USSR. We are finishing the Vietnam War right now and will be looking at conflicts in the Middle East next. In the Tenth Grade we started out examining wars of scarcity across the globe. We then shifted focus to Malthus versus Boserup with regards to population control/futures. We are finishing genetically modified food and other aspects of agriculture. Grade Eleven students are now beginning to find their feet in philosophy - a subject area in which coming to terms with a new vocabulary of terms and concepts is part of the territory. Thus far, students have been introduced to elementary logic; and have begun to navigate the murky waters of metaphysics. In Grade Twelve, modern European history is the focal point as students prepare for the AP European History exam in May 2010. Having examined the High Renaissance and some of the events of the Reformation, students are now turning their attention to the rise of Europe as a world power during the early seventeenth century. Research Design is a brand new subject for the IST High School. Its purpose is two-fold. Firstly, students are learning about the structure and format of formal thesis writing in preparation for their Grade 13 Research Thesis. Secondly, with a view to further honing their writing skills, students are examining a variety of prose in order to take the AP English Language Composition exam in May 2010. On this latter point, students have just finished reading Chinua Achebe's bestseller Things Fall Apart and have written upon some of the themes and topics raised in the book.

Italian Sabrina Vermigli

Grade Nine has studied the structures and thematic aspects of novels through the reading and analysis of pieces from "Decameron" by Giovanni Boccaccio. In order to learn about epics we are learning about the characteristics of "The Iliad." Grade Ten has studied the modern western novel facing by looking at various literature from the 1800's; such as, "The Wretch" by Victor Hugo, "Anna Karenina" by Lev Nicolaevic Tolstoj. We have also begun to look at "The Promises Spouses" of Alexander Manzoni. In Grade Eleven we have begun to look at the historical study of literatures origins (socio-historical picture of the Middle Ages; the religious literature, the sicilian school, the Tuscan school). To parallel this, we are looking at the "Divine Comedy" of Dante Alighieri. In Grade Twelve we are continuing to study of the history of Italian literature. Looking at the works of Ludovico Ariosto and Niccolò Machiavelli.



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

For administrative enquiries please refer to Paola Zonta.