



# The Alabarda

International School of Trieste Community Newsletter | November 27, 2009 | V. I issue V

## Art Electives

Alexis Firsty

Each art studio elective course for the Upper School has been working on various themes as the basis for our art making. Within these themes we have explored multiple ways to use materials and techniques in order to express the intended meaning of our work.

The Middle School art studio began the year with a unit on *Identity* by creating name designs and self-portraits. The self-portraits were inspired by the work of the artist Chuck Close, who creates giant portraits by combining small individual designs. Students learned how to divide up a face using proportional guidelines and drew themselves using a mirror. They then made giant self-portraits in color, using only fingerprints to create the form, a method also used by Chuck Close. We then

moved on to the theme of *Observing the World Around You*. We discussed the importance of being observant and looking for details in our surroundings. Students collected various objects as evidence of what they do in their daily lives and drew them from observation. They learned how to use variety and unity to create a meaningful drawing. We then studied the work of Georgia O'Keefe and created close-up drawings of plants. These drawings will be finished in color and then used as inspiration for an upcoming printmaking project.

The High School two-dimensional art studio also focused on the theme of *Identity* during first quarter. Students created illuminated letters, which were inspired by the illuminated manuscripts of the middle Ages. They designed a letter to represent themselves and included a bor-

der and designs that communicated information about their personal identity. They then also created self-portraits by first practicing from looking in a mirror and then using a photograph and drawing a grid to enlarge the photo into a drawing. The goal was to show part of their identity through the pose, materials, and background of the portrait. We finished our identity unit by creating a collage to show two different sides of ourselves. We have recently



begun our second quarter theme of *Perspective* by discussing the multiple definitions of that word and beginning to create art from a variety of points of view.

The High School three-dimensional art studio began the year with the focus of *Transitioning from 2D to 3D*. This theme has allowed

students who are used to working flat develop skills to create three-dimensional artwork. Our first major project was to create wire portraits that were inspired by blind-contour drawings and the artwork of Alexander Calder. Students then learned how to draw in perspective, which allows two-dimensional drawings to appear as though they are three-dimensional. We looked at the work of the designers Frank Gehry and Frank Lloyd Wright. Students formed architecture design teams to create drawings and three-dimensional models of buildings that could improve Trieste. Students developed really creative ideas as to how to make Trieste fun and interesting for people of all ages through new architecture, while also learning to experiment with a variety of materials and methods for creating their models. We are currently focusing on additive processes in sculpture for our second quarter unit.

### This Week's Alabarda

Art Electives and Upcoming Calendar .....	Cover
PTA News .....	Pg. 2
Middle School Languages and Electives .....	Pg. 2

**BAKE SALE:** Thanks to the students and parents of K5, we collected for the first bake sale € 143.70. Congratulations and keep it up

**CHARITY COLLECTION:** From Monday November 30<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a clothing collection for the "Associazione Bambini di Trieste". This time we are collecting toys in good condition for a celebration the Association is organizing December 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you wish to contribute please clearly indicate boy/girl and the age. Looking forward to your precious contribution.

**ROSSETTI Theatre:** We remind families who hold the season ticket that the next show "CHICAGO" will be on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Meeting point: Rossetti main entrance (viale XX Settembre). Time: 8:10 p.m. Please be there on time. Thank you for your cooperation.

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:** The last day of school before the Christmas Holidays will be **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2009**. Classes will resume normally on **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 2010**.

### Upcoming Calendar:

•**Parent-Teacher Evening:** The first Parent-teacher evening will take place on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 in the Office starting Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

•**TEACHER IN-SERVICE:** The next staff development in-service day will be **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** 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". Also the 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 organised by the PTA. **Please note that there will be no bus service at 4.00 p.m. All the buses will leave at 12.00 noon. The deadline for handing in the form you received last week requesting the afterschool service is TODAY.**

•**Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will take place Monday, **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m.**

**WINTER SHOWS:** These will be held at **IST** as follows:

**K2** - "Winter Show" - Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

**K3, K4, K5** - "Winter Show" - Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

**Gr. 1, 2, 3** - "Winter Show" - Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 p.m.

**Gr. 4 & 5** - "Winter Show" - Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

The Middle School Show (Gr. 6, 7, 8) will take place in February.

## PTA News

Dear IST families, join us next **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th, at 7:30 pm** for the school **POTLUCK DINNER**. All families and friends are invited! Please bring a dish to share with us! The PTA will provide the drinks. There will be a **RAFFLE OF GUCCI BAGS**, all the proceeds will go to the Calcutta project. Reps will sell tickets starting next Monday.

At the last PTA meeting it was decided to purchase: 4 microphones and a receiver, one mixer, one power amplifier, and two speakers, for the amount of 805 €. The ECC and Elementary Halloween parties totaled 515 €, including presents, decorations, and pumpkins. A detailed balance will be given to the reps as soon as the PTA money collection is over. **See you at the dinner!**



Potluck Dinner 2008

## Middle School

### Middle School Journalism

Nicholas Binder

In Middle School Journalism we have been busy throughout the first quarter getting IST's student-run newspaper, *The Virtue*, off the ground. The students have been learning the basics of news journalism - the different parts of an article, appropriate sources of news, and the process behind researching and writing an article. Already, they have put out two editions and are hard at work on the third. In addition to publishing *The Virtue*, students will also be analyzing several different issues in Journalism over the next few months, including, but not limited to: the impact of the 24/7 news cycle and the Internet, the role of journalism in a democratic society along with forms of censorship, and different journalistic forms such as broadcast and photo journalism.

### Middle School French

Lucia Macaluso

In Grade Six, during the first quarter we worked on module 1 "Bienvenue" and we learned through oral and written exercises how to say hello and goodbye, how to say our name, how to spell our name, how to greet someone, how to ask what something is, how to say what we do and don't have, how to say our age and how to say and ask what color something is. Currently, we are working on module 2 "Toi et moi". In Grade Seven, during the first quarter after quickly reviewing grammar, vocabulary and parts of speech, we worked on module 1 "Salut" and we learned through oral and written exercises how to talk about ourselves and someone else, how to say what we did yesterday and how to write a journal using the perfect tense. Currently we are working on module 2 "Ma vie". In Grade Eight, during the first quarter after quickly reviewing grammar, vocabulary and parts of speech, we worked on module 1 "l'Hexagone" and through oral and written exercises we studied French regions and some French cities. We also learned how to talk about a country and a city through oral and written activities (presentations, interviews). We analyzed documents about the *Franco-phones*. Currently we are working on module 2 "J'arrive".

### German

Silvia Agostini

In Grade Six, students have learned how to say hello and goodbye, ask a friend's name and give their own, count from numbers 0 to 31 and say how old they are and enquire about a friend's age. In addition, students learned how to say the German alphabet and spell out words, ask and answer questions about countries and nationalities, ask and answer questions about objects in their school bags, understand simple requests from their teacher (Steht auf!, Hört zu!, Macht das Buch auf! etc.). Students have been practicing the use of both definite (*der, die, das*) and indefinite articles (ein/einen, eine) in the nominative (subject) and accusative (object) cases and have become familiar with the grammatical gender of words (masculine, feminine, neuter). In Grade Seven, students have learned how to ask and give personal details, name countries and nationalities in the feminine and masculine forms, talk about what they like/don't like doing (*Ich laufe gern Ski; Ich gebe nicht gern in die Schule*) and ask a friend about his/her hobbies and interests. Students have been working on verbs in the present tense and have learned some irregular verbs (*sehen, essen, laufen etc.*). They have also learned some useful everyday expressions and practiced the use of possessive (*mein, dein, sein/ibr...*) and negative forms (*kein, keine...*).

### Spanish

Paloma Bernabe

This term we started with a Spanish phonetic introduction. Students in Grade Six have gained experience with basic Spanish language skills: colors, days of the week, months, introductions...and even their first Spanish verbs!!

Students began the course with an initial Spanish test in Grade Seven, we have now leveled their skills with the use of comparatives, immediate future, extension of courtesy and expressions in social interactions. Students are beginning to work in small groups in order to practice conversational skills.

In Grade Eight, we started with a general Spanish grammar review and introduced more difficult grammar skills (*ser/estar*; prepositions and present simple). These new grammar skills will lead the students to improve overall Spanish skills. At the intermediate level in Grade Eight, our objective is to reach the A2 level/standard of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Essential skills we will be working on are listening and interaction.

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.