



# The Alabarda

International School of Trieste Community Newsletter | December 4, 2009 | VI issue VI

**German**  
Silvia Agostini

Grade Nine students have learned how to ask for and give personal details, introduce themselves and a friend, briefly speak about their family, ask someone to spell a word, use verbs "to be" (sein) and "to have" (haben),

describe themselves and their personal appearance. Students in Grade Nine have also been involved in a reading / comprehension project with the aim of enriching their vocabulary and developing their own personal opinion on the subject matter concerned. At the end of the project, and after doing some personal research, students

made a presentation in class. Grade Ten students were subdivided into three groups, according to their specific level of language competence. The first group of students has been working on verb tenses and conjugations, with particular emphasis on the present tense and the conjugation of irregular verbs. The second group has been working on the use of the Perfekt, the Partizip, the correct usage of auxiliary verbs and Wechselpräpositionen (an, auf, in, etc.) The third group of students has been involved in the study of the Präteritum (how to form and use it) and is now learning how to tell a story or a personal experience in the (remote) past (Mit acht Jahren war ich...). The next step will be to study the three declinations of adjectives. Elements of history and culture were also introduced in two lessons specially dedicated to the fall of the Berlin Wall. The



three groups have been and are constantly involved in speaking activities and encouraged to practice their German as much as possible in class. Grade Eleven has been working on the conjugation of verbs in the present tense, personal pronouns in

the nominative, accusative and dative cases, interrogative and negative forms, possessive adjectives, definite and indefinite articles. Listening, speaking and reading / comprehension activities have been carried out on a regular basis to ensure constant

improvement in both understanding and communication skills. Grade Eleven students have learned how to introduce themselves and a third person, ask/answer simple questions, talk about likes and dislikes. Grade Twelve students have learned how to form and use the Perfekt and auxiliary verbs "to be" (sein) and "to have" (haben) with the Partizip (past participle). In doing so, students have enriched their vocabulary and consolidated previous knowledge of the topics. The use of Wechselpräpositionen was also looked at in depth, together with the use of definite/indefinite articles, demonstrative and indefinite adjectives, 1st and 2nd declination of adjectives, separable verb prefixes. Students have learned how to speak about past experiences, give information about a destination/place, make descriptions and talk about the weather.

## This Week's Alabarda

German and Upcoming Calendar .....	Cover
PTA News .....	Pg. 2
High School Languages and Electives .....	Pg. 2

**CHARITY COLLECTION:** We wish to remind all families that the clothing collection for the "Associazione Bambini di Trieste" will last until Wednesday December 16th. We need toys in good condition for a celebration the Association is organizing December 22nd. If you wish to contribute please clearly indicate boy/girl and the age. Looking forward to your precious contribution.

**TEACHER IN-SERVICE:** We remind you that 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. Those who have already handed in their requests by the deadline can leave their children at school until the end of the school day (4 p.m.) Please note that there will be no bus service at 4.00 p.m. All the buses will leave at 12.00 noon. Please be punctual in collecting your children from school or at the bus stops.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL:** Families are kindly reminded that for organisational and security reasons all changes regarding bus transportation and pick-up arrangements regarding your children must be done no later than 12:30 A.M. Thank you for your cooperation.

**BAKE SALE:** Thanks to the students and parents of K4, we collected for the first bake sale € 118,73. Congratulations and keep it up.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR

**IST library will be holding it's bi-annual sale of English books** on Monday December 14th and Tuesday December 15th from 8am until 4pm. There will be a full range of books appropriate for all students Early Childhood through grade 12. Each class will have a scheduled time during the school day to select books that they would like to purchase. It will be possible for all students to set aside 2 books for later purchase at some point during the fair. Books for Early Childhood to Grade 2 students will be 6 Euro, Books for Grade 3 through Middle School Students will be 7 Euro, and Books for High School Students and Adults will be 8 Euro.

**BOARD MEETING:** The next Board meeting will take place Monday, December 14th at 8:30 p.m.

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

K2 - "Winter Show" - Tuesday December 15th at 9:00 AM

K3, K4, K5 - "Winter Show" - Wednesday December 16th at 10:00 AM

Gr. 1, 2, 3 - "Winter Show" - Wednesday December 16th at 2:15 p.m.

Gr. 4 & 5 - "Winter Show" - Wednesday December 16th at 3:00 p.m.

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

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:** The last day of school before the Christmas Holidays will be Friday, December 18th 2009.

Classes will end regularly at 3.45 p.m. and will resume on Monday, January 11th 2010.

## PTA News

Dear IST families,

tonight at 7:30 pm we're going to have **our special Christmas dinner!** You can bring a dish or share with us, it will be a great occasion to socialize with the IST community and have fun! There will be a **raffle of Gucci bags**, you can ask your reps for the tickets! The proceeds will go to Project Calcutta. We'll be also showing some pictures of the Indian students we are supporting. In addition, we will begin selling the **IST calendar** featuring student artwork and photos by Michael Butrum.



## High School

### High School French Lucia Macaluso

During the first quarter Grade Nine worked on module 1 “études”. Through various oral and written activities, students learned how to describe their school, to talk about their timetable, to talk about rules, regulations, challenges in school and their future education plans. We also analysed authentic documents about high school in France. At the end of the module each student presented an exposé on a different educational system. The students compared the Belgian, Spanish, German, English and American educational systems. Currently we are working on oral comprehension of authentic documents. In Grade Ten, after intensively reviewing grammar, vocabulary and communication, we worked on module 6 “aux magasins”. The students learned how to talk about shopping and pocket money through role playing and written activities. In this module we also worked on how to write a formal letter, how to make formal calls and how to formally report a loss and make an announcement. In addition, we analysed a large range of authentic documents about “look et apparences”. Currently, we are working on the use of the subjunctive mood. In Grade Eleven, during the first quarter we worked through intensive oral and written exercises in the area of French language: morphology and syntax. In the area of literature we studied oral and written activities the main and significant texts of Middle Age literature: la chanson de geste, la littérature courtoise, la Ballade des pendus, la farce de Maitre Pathelin. Currently, we are working on the area of French culture. We are analysing an authentic document “le Manifeste pour la jeunesse du XXIe siècle” in order to talk, to discuss and reflect on peace, education, environment, developement, solidarity, communication and intercultural dialogue. In Grade Twelve, during the first quarter we worked through intensive oral and written exercise on the area of French language: morphology and syntax. In the area of literature we studied varied oral and written activities, the main historical events, authors (Lamartine, Hugo, Balzac and Stendhal) and texts of the literature of the first half of the XIXth century. Currently we are working on the area of French culture. We are analysing authentic documents on the symbols, principles and institutions of the French Republic.

### Italian Elective Sabrina Vermigli

In the first quarter, we have looked at the figure of Luigi Pirandello, studying personality, works, and poetry. We have read and commented on the following novels: *Il pipistrello*, *Nenè e Nini*, *Canta l'Epistola*, *I nostri ricordi*, *Il treno ha fischiato*, *Un mondo di carta*, *La mosca*, *Ciuala scopre la luna*, *La giara*, *La cattura*.

**High School Spanish** Paloma Bernabe In Grade Nine, students have been working with the Spanish past (pretérito imperfecto/ pretérito indefinido), Spanish gerund, adverbs (muy/mucho/bastante) and the organization of speech. In the coming weeks, the students will start to learn the different forms of the Spanish imperative (regular/ irregular). We will develop speaking skills in class through practice. We will also look at Spanish culture through music, literature and film. Currently, we are introducing an interesting cultural topic: “La movida madrileña: cambio cultural de la mano de Pedro Almodovar y otros artistas de la época”. In Grade Ten, we are working on oral and written communication, grammar, vocabulary and aspects of orthography. Now we are looking at the morphology of Spanish verbs. In Literature, we were working with theory of literature genre and we are currently reading, “La Colmena” from the nobel prize winner Camilo José Cela. In Grade Eleven, students are working with an extra grammar program: Spanish future uses and the Spanish past comparison (pretérito imperfect / pretérito indefinido/ pasado perfecto) was the principal focus. In the upcoming weeks, the students will review the Spanish conditional and start to work with the literature skills reading a selection of poetry by Pablo Neruda and viewing different material (text and audiovisual) from “El Capitán Alatriste.”

In Grade Twelve, students are working hard with Spanish grammar. Students have consolidated the main grammar arguments: Spanish past (pretérito imperfect / pretérito indefinido/ pasado perfecto) and future uses, impersonals verbs, possessives and haber/estar. The students have been reading “El capitán Alatriste” (1-5 chapter, original version) and have been practicing their reading skills with Mass Media text. We have developed listening skills with cultural programs (“REDES”) from RTVE.

### Social Studies Jeremy Strickley

The Grade 11/12 Social Studies elective, *Philosophy II*, offers a more in-depth approach to the themes and matters of philosophy. Earlier in the year, students addressed the topic of existentialism and its various proponents. The ideas of Søren Kierkegaard, Martin Heidegger and most recently Jean-Paul Sartre were explored with a view to understanding how existential questioning can influence the way we live our lives. This week students have begun looking at the philosophy of science. This is a broad area of study which encompasses a number of topics (epistemology, inductive and deductive reasoning, philosophy of religion). Our starting point has involved considering the key differences and similarities between science and religion.

### 9 and 10 Earth Science Elective

Robert Parish

Through the first quarter, Earth Science students chose their topic of study for the entire year. They spent the majority of the first 9 weeks of the class. Becoming an “expert” on their topic. Students researched their subject in a number of ways including using online scientific journals, print resources, non-internet periodicals, and personal interviews. Each student interviewed an expert in their field of study. The interviews turned into an exciting facet of the class, as students used phone, personal, and skype/interviews to talk to scientists all over Trieste and Italy, Belgium, Austria, and the United States. A few students were even able to speak with NASA scientists working on the United States space program. Students compiled all of their information into a concise and detailed research papers on their topic.

### Journalism

Elizabeth Hood

In High School Journalism, we have been busy honing our writing and editing skills through our monthly publication of *The Virtue*. Through the application of issues that we face in. In the upcoming months we will be examining the role of technology in conflating ideologies of news and media, examining shifts in journalism and reporting during times of war and viewing the role of news in personifying race and gender within contemporary and historical frameworks.



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.