



The Alabarda

International School of Trieste Community Newsletter | January 22, 2010 | V.I. issue X

Congratulations Valentina Marzola!

Congratulations are due to Grade 10 student, Valentina Marzola, who successfully applied - as the first ever Italian candidate - to take part in the 2010 Indian Expedition - the fourth part of the Pangaea Project - led by the award-winning South African explorer, Mike Horn. To apply, Valentina had to send an application form and produce a video of herself, which was sent to a special selection committee. She was then shortlisted and became one of the sixteen candidates to participate in the selection camp based in Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland. There she competed for one of the final eight places available on the Indian Expedition. After ten days of intense preparation, she had to undergo a thirty-six hour 'raid' which involved a series of team-based challenges to test the candidates' characters - "The goal of this raid," explains Valentina, "was to put us in difficult situations to test our reactions and character differences, to see how we would behave under extreme circumstances on the actual expedition, aboard the Pangea, the exploration vessel specially designed by Mike Horn."

"The aim of this multi-stage program is to give young people the chance to explore some of the world's most intriguing places,

motivating youngsters to take an interest in the world's needs and pass that message on to future generations - the program's motto is 'Explore - Learn - Act'."

We all wish Valentina the very best of luck as she sets out on 31 January to the Gulf of Bengala, in the Andaman Islands, where she will rejoin her teammates and embark upon what will surely be the trip of a lifetime.



Valentina holds an article about herself, written in a local newspaper.

For more information, please go to www.mikehorn.com, or speak to Valentina - she will be more than happy to talk to you about her exciting work.

This Week's Alabarda	
Congratulations	Cover
Elementary.....	Pg. 2

CHARITY FUND-RAISING: From Monday, January 25th to Friday, January 29th anyone who wishes to can contribute to the fundraising in favour of the earthquake victims of Haiti. A box will be available in the Office. We really look forward to your precious contribution.

BAKE SALE: Thanks to the staff and Shakti students who supported them, we collected € **226,17**. Congratulations and keep it up. **Please note that since the proceeds of next week's Bake Sale will go towards the earthquake victims of Haiti everything will cost € 1.**

UPCOMING CALENDAR:

PE UNIFORMS: Knots will be at the school for new orders **Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.** in the main entrance hall.

PTA MEETING: The next PTA meeting will take place **Wednesday, January 27th, 2.15 p.m.** in the school cafeteria. Those who wish to have lunch at school are kindly asked to call the front office by **Monday, January 25th** .

Elementary

Grade One Ms. Karyn and Ms. Tiffany

Over the past few months, Grade One has been learning about 'Festivals of Light' from around the world. Having studied Hanukkah, Diwali, Halloween, Winter Solstice and Christmas, our unit is now coming to a close. Students compared aspects of each festival and looked for the similarities and differences. In Science, we have been learning about the different types of materials and their properties. Last week, after making fridge magnets, students went on a magnetic hunt to find magnetic materials in the classroom. In Math, students have been studying two and three-dimensional shapes, making patterns and their own works of art with shapes. We have also been using a variety of strategies to learn how to subtract, comparing principles of addition and subtraction. Students made their own paper pizzas and created subtraction problems based on how many slices they ate.

Grade Two Ms. Megan and Ms. Melissa

Grade Two would like to welcome Ms. Katie to the classroom! She is a student teacher from The College of New Jersey and will be with us until the end of February. She is very excited to join the Grade Two class! Now that we are back from holiday, we are jumping right into new topics. Last week, we discussed what happened in 2009 and what our resolutions are for 2010. In literacy, we are expanding our writing more each day and becoming better readers. We recently talked about Martin Luther King, Jr. and will soon have our own peace protest. We are reviewing all of our math skills and moving on to subtraction with regrouping. We have learned a new friendship song and cannot wait to share it!

Grade Three Ms. Amanda, Ms. Carla and Ms. Abby

Grade Three is working on a science unit about water. Through a series of hands on activities, the students first investigated why objects sink or float. They built boats and predicted the strength of each. They tested them in water, rebuilt them and tested them again. They also tested the strength of water itself. Next, students learned about water pollution and its effect on plants and fish by adding different water pollutants and observing what happened to the water habitat. Now, students are researching animals that live in the sea.

In Geography, students painted a large mural in class that shows many of the Earth's physical features. Students also painted landscapes using our new, Geography vocabulary and they wrote and illustrated a book about the Earth's features.

Grade Four Ms. Kate and Ms. Allie

The fourth grade is off to a fantastic new year, having started our new recycling service project at IST. We have begun to increase recycling and reduce waste by creating separate bins for cans, paper, plastic and glass. We have begun the project in the Elementary corridor and hope to expand to the Middle and High School. Our goal is to help protect the Earth and keep IST clean!

Grade 5 Ms. Sack and Mrs. Parish

In Grade Five, science students are leaning about the Periodic Table, elements and atoms in Science. We will be conducting chemical-based experiments and taking a nanotechnology field trip to the Università in the coming months. Then, we will begin our study of the human body in the spring. In Math, we are finishing the study of decimals and fractions before beginning work on algebraic equations. Shortly, we will begin a unit on graphs and measuring data. In Language Arts, we have completed our autobiographies and have proudly displayed them in the classrooms. We will continue to practice our grammar and parts of speech, applying this knowledge to our upcoming unit on letter writing. We have started reading our new book, which we are enthusiastically discussing in our Literature Circles. In Social Studies, we are learning all about Italy, we have been focusing on the Northern and Southern regions of Italy, comparing and contrasting various aspects of culture, geography and history.



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.