



## INSPIRING TEACHERS, ENGAGED STUDENTS

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

I have absolutely loved reading this week's newsletter! Each and every page is a clear example of how the teachers at our school are able to inspire and engage the students with their ideas and creativity in order to make learning fun but purposeful.

You will see how the teachers are able to use their topics to cover a range of different skills that the students need to acquire, for example mathematical surveys as part of the Year 2 Chocolate topic, and creative writing skills as part of the Year 4 Planeteers topic. You can also see how our Early Years team create opportunities for our very youngest students to develop a variety of skills that will form the basis of their future learning.

Not only this, but our newsletter also features our second family trip of the school year. Mrs Armstrong writes about last weekend's visit to Longqin Gorge, and I think you will agree that the pictures themselves show that everyone who attended had an enjoyable time. We are hoping to hold another family trip in the summer term when the weather warms up a little.

Speaking of the summer term, time surely is flying this year and we have already been preparing our calendar for next academic year. Our class teachers attached this to their daily email this week, but you can find a copy at the end of this week's newsletter.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3<sup>rd</sup> February  
PA Meeting  
9am @ Primary Campus

Years 3 & 4  
FOBISIA Swimming Training  
3pm - 4:30pm

8<sup>th</sup> February  
BSB Sanlitun's  
Chinese New Year  
Temple Fair  
@ Primary Campus  
11am - 2 pm

13<sup>th</sup> February  
School Finishes @ 3:30pm

16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
Chinese New Year Holiday

24<sup>th</sup> February  
School Resumes

2<sup>nd</sup> March  
Primary Campus  
Swimming Season Begins

3<sup>rd</sup> March  
PA Meeting  
9am @ Primary Campus

7<sup>th</sup> March  
Under 11 Basketball  
@ BSB Shunyi

9<sup>th</sup> March  
Book Week Begins

## AZTEC DESIGNS AND CHOCOLATE SURVEYS

By Paul Hollidge, Year 2 Elephants Class Teacher

The Year 2 children have been busy merging maths with our topic this week as they have been completing surveys to find out which is the most popular chocolate topping in school. Each class visited a different year group and had to show collaboration along with confidence when speaking in front of another class. The children have now analysed the results and presented their findings in a variety of ways. We will be revealing the most popular topping in the last week of this half-term when we will be selling a variety of delicious child-made chocolates. Start saving your RMB - our chocolate will be better than a bar of Wonka's Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight!



*Year 2 collecting information from Year 1*

As part of the topic the children have also been learning about the origins of the cacao bean. This week the children looked at its Aztec roots and have been observing and critiquing Aztec artwork. The children designed their own Aztec inspired hot chocolate cups using simple patterns and have now made their cups using clay. Next week the classes will again visit the art room where the children will paint their clay cups before evaluating their work.



*Aztec cup designs*



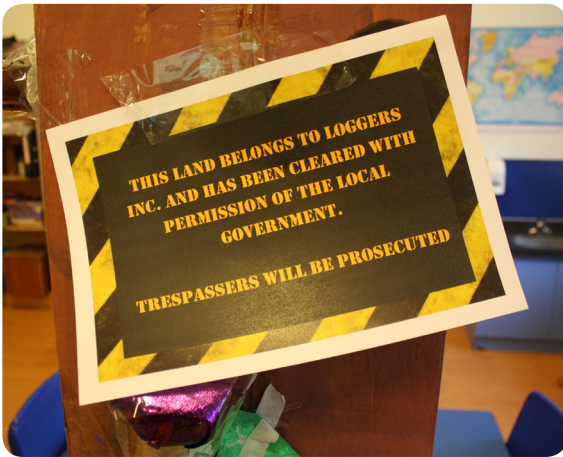
*Year 2 concentrating on their work*



## DEVASTATING DEFORESTATION

By Year 4 students Celine, Cristiano, Eddy and Laila

This term Y4 have been learning about the rainforest. First, we created an information poster about the plants and animals of the rainforest. With this new knowledge, we transformed our classrooms into beautiful rainforests using recycled materials from home. It was spectacularly wonderful because there were so many amazing rare species of animals and plants. We had cheerful chimpanzees, marvellous macarangas, terrific toucans and pesky parrots. The rainforest was beautiful but unfortunately, on Monday 26th January, after assembly, our rainforest was destroyed. We were so disappointed and shocked. We wrote diary entries explaining how we felt. Here are some of our entries:



*A notice from the Loggers Inc.*

“When I arrived at the centre of the jungle, it was gone. The leaves were scattered everywhere and the trees were gone. Only a bit of the mighty kapok survived. The surviving trees were quiet. The only animals left were a toucan with a hurt leg and a broken wing resting on a branch of the mighty kapok. The government does not know how much pollution they are causing and how much beauty they are destroying. People think that we are trespassers but this was our land. This was actually a secure nature preserve until the loggers came...”

——Cristiano Y4 Herons

“Today our rainforest was deforested. It was very depressing. Loggers Inc. had the permission of the government to cut down the trees. Every time I looked at the spot where my rafflesia used to be, a wave of anger washed over me because there were no longer any signs of the large, red flower. All of the jungle was burnt to a crisp...”

——Leroy Y4 Herons



“Dear Diary,

Our beautiful and magnificent rainforest was deforested on Monday 26th January 2015. It was very devastating and all of us were shouting ‘Bring back our Rainforest!’ It was horrible. Then, we saw a note which said: This land belongs to Loggers Inc. and has been cleared with permission of the local government. Trespassers will be prosecuted. I think they chopped down our trees because they wanted money or have been forced to cut down and destroy the rainforest by their bosses. I felt very sad about what they did to the rainforest; one day it was beautiful and the next day it was ugly.”

——Soraiya Y4 Kingfishers

## DEVASTATING DEFORESTATION, CONTINUED...

By Year 4 students Celine, Cristiano, Eddy and Laila

We were then contacted by Captain Planet to raise awareness in our school community about deforestation. We have all been working on projects such as making posters, presentations and writing articles (like this one) to spread the word about how you can make a difference.

Most importantly, the 3 Rs: The 3 Rs are reduce, reuse and recycle. Reduce means getting fewer amounts of things you don't need. Reuse means using again for example paper cups, scrap paper and plastic bags. Recycle means making things into something new.

Now, this is what you can do to make a difference and stop so many trees from being cut down:



- Wasting less paper
- Think before you print or photocopy
- Reduce the items you don't need
  - Use both sides of paper
  - Use recycled material
  - Reuse things



*Together we can make a difference*



## TAKING ON A ROLE IN OUR PLAY!

By Sarah Leavers, Pre-Nursery Starfish Class Teacher

In Pre-Nursery, our role play area has been transformed into a Chinese restaurant! The children have really enjoyed exploring this area and are beginning to use their imagination within their play, which is a brilliant skill to learn at such a young age.

Learning through imaginative play is a highly important aspect during early years and develops a number of skills:



### PSED – Making Relationships

Role play is an extremely social act and encourages children to interact with each other – this type of play allows children to use both verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Imaginative play helps young children to begin to understand sharing and taking turns, especially when guided by adults. This in turn helps children develop the skills they need to socialise and cooperate with their peers in other areas too.



### Communication and Language: Speaking

Within our role play, children are learning new language through modelling by adults and they are beginning to copy and practice the words they have heard, developing vocabulary and sentence structure skills. We are also encouraging good listening as in order to participate well in games and role play, children need to listen to others and respond accordingly. Although this is quite challenging at such a young age, role play is a great place to begin to develop this skill.



## TAKING ON A ROLE IN OUR PLAY! CONTINUED..

By Sarah Leavers, Pre-Nursery Starfish Class Teacher

### Understanding the World: People and Communities

Children use their previous knowledge, understanding and personal experiences within their play – imitating everyday actions and events often from their own family and cultural background. Whether it's making a cup of tea, being the teacher or a chef in a restaurant, with imaginary play children recreate these scenes they have built up in their head which demonstrates their understanding and allows them to begin to learn about similarities and differences that connect them to, and distinguish them from, others.

### Fine Motor Skills

One of the most popular items in our Chinese role play at the moment are the chopsticks! The children have been working very hard to pick up and move food as well as pom poms and other more tricky items. This has not only built up the children's concentration, but it has been helping to develop their fine motor skills which in turn will improve children's pencil grip to help them with their mark making skills.

We have also turned our role play into a REAL restaurant where the children made their own dumplings. They had to listen very carefully to follow step by step instructions to create their delicious treats. Of course, the most exciting part of this activity was getting to enjoy eating the dumplings at snack time!





## CREATIVITY IS IN ABUNDANCE IN YEAR 1!

By Madison Ash, Year 1 Panthers Class Teacher

Year 1 have really been enjoying their topic of The Emperor's New Clothes in which they have been using Pie Corbett 'Talk for Writing' actions to help retell the story using important story language words.

We have been focusing on character development this term and have been learning about the different aspects that you need to consider when creating a new character. The children learnt how to give their character an interesting background and personality. The children have created characters with individual attitudes and behaviours and have now substituted them into their own version of the Emperor's New Clothes.

Some of the story titles include The Vampire's New Clothes, The Bullfrog's New Clothes, and even, Princess Ash's New Clothes!

We have also been very busy combining our topic work with D.T. We have been designing and making our own T-shirts. Initially the children looked at various t-shirt types and decided on which type of neckline and sleeve they would like. Then the children used originality to design their own t-shirts. Next was the making process in which the children used colorful dye before applying the finishing touches by adding beads and the use of fabric markers. Year 1 will be holding a fashion shoot next week and we are confident that the fashion designers from Vogue will soon be calling for tips from the designers of the future!



*Retelling the story for the Emperor's New Clothes with talk for writing actions*



*Designers of the future*



## A SNOWY TRIP TO LONGQING GORGE

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

Last weekend was our BSB Sanlitun Family Trip to Longqing Gorge to the Ice Festival. It was a fabulous day out for all those who went. We had children and parents from across the school from Pre-Nursery to Year 5 enjoying the day.

The ice sculptures were all shapes and sizes; some enormous temples and castles that you could walk through to smaller sculptures of animals and objects. Some sculptures were lit up with multi-coloured lighting and others were kept simple. As well as the ice sculptures children were able to go on tyre cars; do tyre sledging; ride on the swing merry-go-round; take the dragon escalator and more.

There was plenty of fun for everyone and to top it off we had snow throughout the day which made it feel truly magical.

We hope to see you on our next BSB Sanlitun school trip!



*Malu & Gustavo enjoying the trip*



*Posing in front of the ice sculptures*





## A SNOWY TRIP TO LONGQING GORGE, CONTINUED...

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher



*Magnificent ice sculptures*





# BSB SANLITUN'S CHINESE NEW YEAR TEMPLE FAIR

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY, 2015  
11AM TO 2PM

OPTIONAL:  
WHY NOT COME IN  
TRADITIONAL  
CHINESE CLOTHES?

Come and celebrate the Year of Sheep at BSB Sanlitun!  
Friends and families are invited to join us to enjoy:

-  Traditional Chinese cuisine
-  Chinese arts and crafts for children
-  Lion dance performances
-  Chinese New Year performances  
by our students



The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun,  
No. 5 Sanlitun Xiliu Jie





# Academic Year 2015-16

## Term dates

### AUTUMN TERM

**Monday 24 August** - First day of autumn term

**Monday 28 September to Tuesday 6 October** - National holidays

**Thursday 12 and Friday 13 November** - School closed to students for staff training

**Friday 11 December** - Last day of autumn term

### SPRING TERM

**Tuesday 5 January** - First day of spring term

**Thursday 4 February to Friday 12 February** - National holidays

**Friday 25 March** - Last day of spring term

### SUMMER TERM

**Wednesday 6 April** - First day of summer term

**Monday 2 May** - School closed for Labour Day

**Thursday 9 and Friday 10 June** - School closed for Dragon Boat Festival

**Thursday 30 June** - Last day of summer term

Please note: This calendar is subject to change per Chinese Government announcements