



## A CHRISTMAS CRACKER INDEED...

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

I cannot begin this week's newsletter without mentioning the fantastic Christmas Cracker event that took place at BSB Sanlitun last Sunday. In a change to the norm, the focus of this year's Christmas event was centred around the children, and instead of vendors stalls and shopping, we facilitated many different activities for children. These included chocolate decorating, creating Christmas yarn decorations, tree decorations, a photo booth, and of course the usual teacher led games in the gym. The Parent Association also hosted an International Bar, with some weird and wonderful concoctions from around the globe, and many food vendors lined the playground with tasty treats for all the family. Our Sanlitun Christmas Choir performed some of their Christmas repertoire and the day ended with a much awaited raffle draw, which featured some amazing prizes donated from The Kerry Hotel, The Westin, The Four Seasons, The Novotel, The JW Marriott, The Ritz Carlton, The Marriott and The Conrad, as well as Wild China, who donated our 1st prize - a 7 day stay at a villa in Dali, Yunnan.

It was a super day, very well attended by our school community, the general public and even Santa Claus! I am extremely pleased to announce that we raised over RMB 42,000 for our two chosen charities: UNICEF and Oxfam.

I would also like to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Cracker event, from assisting in it's organisation, to hosting stalls on the day, to supporting with raffle donations. There are so many people to mention - a massive thank you to you all!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

6<sup>th</sup> December  
BSB Choir  
@ Adventure Zone,  
The Kerry Hotel

7<sup>th</sup> December  
BSB Choir  
@ Westin, Financial Street

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> December  
No ASAs  
School Finishes @ 3.30pm

9<sup>th</sup> December  
Years 3 & 4  
Christmas Show to Parents  
6pm @ Primary Campus

10<sup>th</sup> December  
BSB Choir  
@ The Four Seasons

11<sup>th</sup> December  
Pre Nursery & Nursery  
Christmas Sing-a-Long  
11am - 11.30am @ EY Campus

12<sup>th</sup> December  
Last Day of Autumn Term  
School Closes @ 3.30pm

15<sup>th</sup> December - 5<sup>th</sup> January  
School Holidays

6<sup>th</sup> January  
First Day of Spring Term

## END OF TERM LEARNING INFORMATION

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

As the term draws to a close we will begin a 3 week holiday from school. It will give the children an opportunity to relax and refuel ready for the Spring term. Although we don't want the children to work too hard in the holidays, we also don't want them to switch off completely and forget everything they know!

Next week you will receive curriculum leaflets that provide an overview of the spring term. It will tell what topics and areas of learning the children will be focusing on. This is a great starting point over the holidays if you would like your child to keep learning. Finding out things about the topic, buying related resources from another country and reading around the areas of learning will help. In addition your child may receive Chinese vocabulary and phrases to revise, as well as some class optional homework.

We know that the winter holiday can be very busy so we stress to our families that they should focus on doing as much or as little is possible within the constraints of their plans. It is always good to encourage reading every day and technology can provide a great learning opportunity if steered well. A 10 hour plane journey doesn't need to mean 10 hours of Minecraft! Learning should be fun, so keep it light but useful over the holiday period. Happy holidays and happy learning.



*We would definitely recommend regular reading over the holidays*



## THE IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC FOR THE UNDER 3S

By Claudia Valdes, Pre Nursery Tadpoles Class Teacher

We are all aware of how important the first 3 years are in shaping a child's life and music plays a crucial part in the early development of babies and toddlers.

Research has highlighted the important benefits to be gained through an early active involvement with music and singing which has been embraced by the UK government's Early Years curriculum for preschool children. Studies have shown that active music making helps children develop their speech, vocabulary and language skills.

Part of our daily routines always involve a singing session where children can develop both gross and fine motor skills. With the emphasis placed on 'doing', we believe children experience music and songs best through interaction where they connect with music using their senses; listening, copying, moving to and feeling the music. By engaging with music in this way, their learning opportunities open up to develop speech and language skills, numeracy, coordination, listening and social skills, and confidence.



*Examples of listening singing and movement in the Early Years*



## THE NATIVITY

By Charlotte Cummins, Reception Sealions Class Teacher

If you're a camel, who needs a car?!

The camels in Reception have swished their tales, and chomped and chewed their way on to the stage to perform their Christmas Production of 'Born in a Barn' this week.

The camels, donkeys and sheep have fluttered their eyes, stomped their feet and shaken their fleeces proudly in front of the whole school and parents.

The children clearly spoke a line of a script independently and sang class songs and songs as a year group. Retelling the story of the birth of Jesus through songs, narration and dance gave Reception the chance to improve their confidence at being on stage in front of a big audience.

We've also been getting in the Christmas spirit by making Christmas cards, calendars and decorating Christmas Treats to munch on! The children used icing sugar and sweet treats to make a decorative biscuit to take home.





## TELLING A STORY THROUGH IMOVIE

By Beth Dopson, Year 5 Flamingos Class Teacher

In Flamingos class we used the iMovie APP on the iPads this week. We wanted to create a movie trailer of a story, which would grab the audience's attention; tell the main events of the story, but also create some mystery and suspense. We decided to use the story of Macbeth for our movie trailers. The main events of the story and plot were discussed and then we used our scripts and the work we had generated in class, to create our trailers.

The trailers were brilliant! Some children chose eerie backgrounds or music for each part of their storyboards. Other children had found pictures of the characters and setting through website research. The children also filmed each other in role as a character from the play and took freeze frame photographs of a point in the story. The children used some engaging techniques to get their audience imagining what may happen next, such as captions and rhetorical questions. We then watched each other's trailers and evaluated how effective they were at telling the story. Flamingos loved using the iPads to showcase what they have learnt about the story of Macbeth and to create a powerful presentation through the use of the APP iMovie.



*Year 5 created movie trailers using the iPads*



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX DELIVERY

By Paul Gildea, Year 6 Eagles Class Teacher

On Thursday Year 6 visited Zhufang Community Centre in Haidian District to deliver your very generous gift of Christmas shoeboxes. The centre provides educational support for the children of migrant workers in Beijing, who do not have access to the public school system.

Year 6 Eagles were able to deliver the gifts, and meet many of the disadvantaged young children and their mothers. This is a very important part of our outreach work, and beneficial for our children to gain an insight into the lives of those less fortunate than us as a key part of our High Performance Learning philosophy is to develop a sense of concern for society.

Year 6 Eagles were superb ambassadors for our school, conducting themselves with patience and respect. Despite the freezing temperatures we certainly managed to share a bit of festive spirit!



*Year 6 students visiting Zhufang Community Centre to deliver the shoeboxes*

## MADAIFU APPLES

By Roxanne Wood, Year 1 Lions Class Teacher

Thank you so much for your continued community support as our Madaifu apple and shoe box appeal come to an end.

We brought 35 boxes of apples and raised a whopping 9540 RMB for the Madaifu children. I'm sure you will all agree that the apples were very tasty! A big thank you also to all the parents, staff and the school council who were involved in the process.