



A GREAT START TO THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

It may only have been a four day week this week, but we have had a great week back at school following the Chinese New Year holidays. Students and staff returned to school refreshed but a little tired on Tuesday after a night of celebratory fireworks, but were still keen to pick up where they left off before the holidays. Each class has been a hive of activity, continuing with topics and making the most of the five weeks we have left of this term. Year 2 have also started preparing for their end of term performance with students excitedly auditioning for roles this week. Teachers are also busy preparing for Book Week which is going to take place the week beginning the 9th March, ensuring that the students enjoy a very special week, sharing a love of books and reading.

Mrs Armstrong and I are also very much looking forward to the next couple of weeks as we are going to spend time in each of the classrooms sharing the fantastic teaching and learning that happens here on a daily basis. It is always wonderful to spend time with the students and the teachers right in the heart of where the learning takes place. We are also looking forward to sharing an evening with parents next week as the Parents Association host their very first Quiz Night on Friday 6th March in the Primary Campus Hall. If you haven't yet booked your place, then you have a couple of days left to take part in what I'm sure will be a great evening.

Until then, I wish you all a relaxing weekend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd March
Primary Campus
Swimming Season Begins

Year 4
Trip to the Zoo

3rd March
PA Meeting
9am @ Primary Campus

6th March
PA Quiz Night
6.30pm @ Primary Campus

7th March
Under 11 Basketball
@ BSB Shunyi

9th March
Book Week Begins

13th March
Book Character Day

19th March
KS2 Residential Meeting

25th March
Year 2 Show
@ Primary Campus

26th March
Reception Stay & Play
8.40am - 9.40am

31st March - 2nd April
Manchester Utd.
Soccer Camp @ BSB Shunyi

FRIENDSHIP WEEK IN YEAR 6

By Paul Gildea, Year 6 Eagles Class Teacher

This week is Friendship Week. After Miss Jones' assembly on Monday we started thinking about the importance of friendship in our lives, particularly as we prepare for our transition to secondary school.

This is a pivotal time for Year 6, as we are growing up and discovering more about ourselves and the kind of people we want to be. We thought about friends to whom we have already said goodbye, and the friends that we look forward to making in our new schools.

We agreed that sometimes it can be hard to make new friends, and we all need time to feel comfortable with new people, but coming to BSB Sanlitun has helped us to understand what we are looking for in a friend: loyalty, honesty and fun!

We discussed ways that we can bring these qualities to our own friendships, and how we can be role models for the younger children.



YEAR 2 AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

By Kyla McIntyre, Year 2 Pandas Class Teacher

Year 2 has been enjoying our spring topic of Chocolate! Who wouldn't!? We have been working towards making chocolates and selling them for charity, which took place on Friday February 13th! We started a few weeks earlier by surveying the entire student body during our Maths lessons, in order to get an idea of what filling most children would like in a chocolate bar. After collecting the data on a tally chart, we organized it into bar charts to better interpret the results. We could then use the information to decide which chocolates to make the most of!

Making the chocolates was a very exciting day and each student took turns measuring the right amount of chocolate, scooping melted chocolate into molds, and adding the correct filling. It was a little messy, but totally worth it!

There was a lot of preparations for the big chocolate sale! We wrapped our chocolates in tinfoil, which was determined to be the best material through a scientific investigation, and placed two chocolates each into small boxes we made from cuboid nets in maths. Everyone involved had a good time trying our homemade chocolates, and we raised a lot of money for some important charities!



EARLY YEARS' FRIENDSHIP WEEK

By Kirsten Harding, Nursery Angel Fish Class Teacher



On Tuesday morning it was so nice to see all the children returning to school with big smiles on their faces and ready to continue on their learning journey.

This week it has been Friendship week and the children in Early Years have been focusing on what makes a good friend.

They have drawn and painted pictures of their fantastic friends and have been encouraged to make a new friend or two by playing a variety of ring games. Cakes have been baked to share with one another and bracelets have been made to give to special friends.

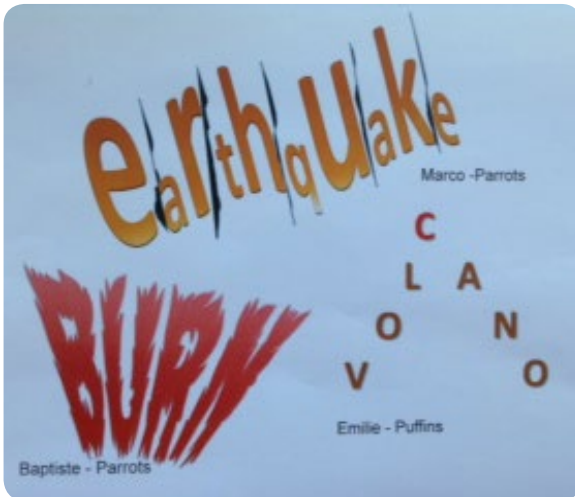
Making a gift for my friend



IT'S ALL ABOUT CREATIVITY

By Zoe Hubbard, Year 3 Puffins Class Teacher

This week we have had film makers and poets in the middle of the school both of which have required the children to combine their literacy skills with their computing skills.



Year 3 have been exploring poetry and have used their imaginations to write some creative class poems as well as creating individual Calligrams. A Calligram is a word or piece of text in which the design and layout of the letters creates a visual image related to the meaning of the words themselves. The children have had fun using the font, size, colour and shape of the text to create Calligrams linked to their Active Planet topic.

Calligrams designed by Year 3

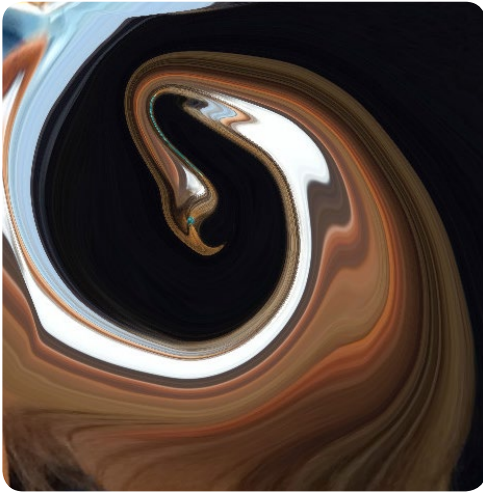
Year 4 became documentary makers. As part of their 'Planeteers' topic they have been studying ocean habitats. Their documentaries started with research into the environmental issues caused to different marine habitats by a variety of fishing methods. They found out that dynamite fishing destroys areas of coral reef but is still favoured by some as an easy fishing method. Cyanide fishing, which is illegal, is used in some areas of the world to catch tropical fish for use in aquariums. Net fishing can harm the seabed as the heavy weights on the nets are dragged across the seabed and much marine life is killed unnecessarily. The children wrote reports on what they had found out before creating their documentaries to highlight these issues. To produce their documentaries, they wrote their own scripts and used their computing skills to record video and audio clips and edit their work. Who knows, we may have some future David Attenboroughs in our midst!



Year 4 creating their documentaries

KEEP IT UP PHOTOGRAPHY CLUBS!

By Madison Ash, Year 1 Panthers Class Teacher



*Marco in Year 3 used
the reshaping tool to make a bird*

Key Stage 2 Photography club have been very creative whilst taking candid photos of different activities around school.

They have independently uploaded their pictures and used a professional editing program to edit their photos. The children explored altering the hue, contrast, saturation and the sharpness of their pictures.

This week the children explored using different filters to change the colours and textures of their photos. The children also used tools such as red eye removal to help improve photos.

The children have learnt and applied new skills very quickly and should be very proud of their work.



*Alix in Year 4 using different filters
and editing effect on her ball games photo*



*Kevin in year 5 used different filters
to add texture to his photo*



*Viren in Year 3 used the contrast, saturation
and the sharpness tools to edit his photo*



*Emellie in Year 3 used different filters
to add texture and depth to her photo*

A SOUND THAT BEGINS INSIDE YOU

By Iva Borisavljevic, Choral Music Teacher

I am grateful to say that this year, here at BSB Sanlitun, we've put singing at the heart of our school life through our Choral music programme that is now an integral part of our school curriculum. Not just because we believe children have a right to high quality singing provision but to deepen their understanding of how to express themselves with confidence.

The aim of our program is to encourage a lifelong love of singing, starting at a young age. We also want them to enjoy singing through their everyday lives, in and out of school as well. That's why our program is focused on ensuring that children have systematic opportunities to explore and develop their voices within a nurturing frame work that is matched to their curiosity and emergent skills.

Here at BSB Sanlitun all children have a regular access to high-quality singing activities through their everyday lessons. Singing is about expression, music and voice. It involves melody, rhythm, words and is focused around five vocal key areas: 1) body balance, 2) breath, 3) pitch, 4) sound-shapers and 5) expression. Each area is an umbrella term that contains a number of sub-elements, but we also know that each child's development is individual and that they can be at different stages. That's why we carefully choose and expose them to a variety of singing material so that all can participate in and enjoy singing.

In our lessons we are very much focused on developing the singer individually. We are always putting the singer first and then the song, because there will be no good songs without a good singers. We even tie our songs to topics being learnt in school: earthquakes, global warming, chocolate, space and more. Through connecting our choral programme with their topic work we give our students a great motivation and a reason to love singing even more.



*Taking a risk and
performing a brand new song*



*Reception children persevering and concentrating hard
to expressively deliver the song*

A SOUND THAT BEGINS INSIDE YOU CONTINUED...

By Iva Borisavljevic, Choral Music Teacher

Our Choral music program is closely connected with our HPL system and gives our students an opportunity to practice some of their skills in a fun way. Collaboration, confidence, risk-taking, creativity, persevering, concentration, and accuracy are just some of the words that we use to describe and represent our singing. We practice these skills not just in class, but also when participating in a range of different performances.



Collaboration and confidence when performing on stage

Through our everyday lessons we practice and exactly know what to expect when step on the stage and perform to the public. BSB SLT students have a range of opportunities to represent their skills, through our school assemblies, class assemblies, productions or choir performances.

For those, who are even more enthusiastic and keen to sing, we have our school choir that is an optional choice for all KS2 children. It is a different experience and gives them an opportunity to explore some of the most famous choral music pieces. In our rehearsals choir members are constantly exposed to singing in a harmony and sight reading. Our choir members are very passionate singers and I can proudly say that we constantly have btw 40- 50 members.

Choir singing, for those who have done it, is the most exhilarating and transformative experience of all. It is a special feeling and it takes something incredibly intimate- a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling: harmony. And that is the magic. The magic created by little wizards, who don't just sing together. They think, they breathe, they create together. It is a hard work, but gives us an opportunity to perform not just to our school friends, but in public, out of school. We're proud and happy to say that as from the beginning of this school year we've already made more than 7 successful public performances in some of the most popular Beijing hotels and places. We had enjoyable time around Christmas and Chinese New year celebration and are looking forward to some new adventures and performances this year.

Make it Right



As you may have read in previous editions of the newsletter, the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have been taking part in a challenge, set by the Nord Anglia Global Classroom, to learn about Children's Rights and take action to make a difference.

The Make it Right event, which took place on Thursday 12th February, was planned and run by the children and many children and adults from our school community attended. It was a great success.



Thank you!

Thank you to all those who attended the event. The children enjoyed showcasing songs and drama sketches, sharing facts and raising money. We hope everyone who came along learnt something or felt inspired to 'Make it Right' for children around the world who do not have all of their basic rights fulfilled.

The children raised over 6200RMB altogether which is fantastic. This will be split between some international charities that are making a difference related to some specific rights that some

groups were focusing on. Some of the funds are going to be used in our local project which is currently being finalised in conjunction with the PA.



As well as organising the event, some groups worked very hard creating a website, videos and a justgiving page to try and raise awareness.

We need your help to make these successful in order to spread our message internationally and raise funds to help children around the world.

Here is how you, and all your friends and family everywhere, can help our children make a difference:

- ◆ **Visit the children's website** (www.bsbsanlitun.wix.com/makeitright) to find out more about the project and issues they have been learning about.
- ◆ **Watch and share their first video** (more to follow) which can be found by searching 'education rap sanlitun' on www.youtube.com or vimeo.com (no www.)
- ◆ Help the children support the work of Oxfam by **donating money via our justgiving page**, which is a secure online donation platform. www.justgiving.com/sanlitunmakeitright



Thank you for supporting the children of Year 4,5 and 6 as they try to 'Make it Right' for children less fortunate than themselves.