

Friday 26th June 2015



Ella, our winner of Sanlitun's Got Talent...

AND WE COME TO THE END...

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

Well, we made it to the end of the academic year and what a super year it has been. I know many of you came to our End of Year Assembly yesterday so hopefully saw just a snapshot of all the things we have done during the year.

This time of year always brings a tinge of sadness as we say goodbye to friends and colleagues and this year we say a fond farewell to members of staff: Miss Savage, Mrs Old and Miss Andressa from our Nursery classes; Miss Cummins and Miss Jones from Reception; Miss Jenny from Year 1, Mrs Gildea from Year 2, Miss Ros from Year 3; Ms Watt and Mr Allen from Year 4, and Mr Gildea from Year 6. We wish them the very best of luck in their next lot of adventures and I'm sure we will be hearing from them in the months to come.

This means of course that we will be welcoming a new team of teaching staff to BSB Sanlitun in August: Miss Jerath in Pre-Nursery; Miss Sayers in Nursery; Miss O'Beirne, Miss Gin, Mr Suter and Mr Knibbs in Reception and Mr Haden in Year 5. Many of our current teachers are also going to be teaching in new year groups next year which they are thoroughly looking forward to.

It is also my final few days here in Beijing and whilst I know I spoke yesterday about how amazing our parents, students and staff are, I would just like to say one more thank you to everyone in our BSB Community for making my time here one I will remember always. I sincerely hope Sanlitun continues to be a very special gem in the heart of Beijing for many, many years to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 20th - 21st August
Open Mornings
for Parents and Students
9am - 12pm
- 24th August
First Day of School
for Students
- 1st September
PA Meeting
9am @ Primary Campus Hall
- 2nd September
Meet & Greet for Parents
@ Primary Campus
5.30pm - 8.30pm
- 3rd September
School Closed
for National Holiday
- 8th September
Autumn Term ASAs Start
- 11th September
PA Welcome Back Party
@ Primary Campus
5pm - 8pm
- 15th - 16th September
Individual Photos
for Students
- 17th September
Individual Music Programme
Meet & Greet

NORD ANGLIA DEBATING LEAGUE – BSB SANLITUN WIN!!

By Allen Hubbard, Year 4 Teaching Assistant

We are delighted to announce that the debating team from BSB Sanlitun has won the Primary debating competition.

After competing against 31 teams from 13 schools around the world, BSB Sanlitun reached the final to face Chicago. In earlier rounds we had debated and won debates on “Technology is ruining human relationships”, “Tourism benefits the world” and “Politics should be taught in school”.



For the final we had to argue for the motion “Every family has a responsibility to produce some of their own food”. The team of Martina, Sarina, Sora, Lena, Saffron, Rowan, Chloe and Eddy have attended the Debating ASA all term and also put in extra time during their lunch and break times to research the subject. Over the course of two weeks the team had to prepare five separate posts arguing their reasons and rebuffing the opposition.

The final was extremely close with a panel of three expert judges, including a UK Government expert on Food and Farming, deciding that the scores were Sanlitun 36 – Chicago 35. A great close debate and a fantastic win for our team.

All of the team will receive Winners certificates and the school will be presented a prize trophy in September.

A NIGHT AT SCHOOL

By Laura Gildea, Year 2 Pandas Class Teacher

On Friday the 12th of June the brave Year 2 children returned to school, courageously bid farewell to their parents and prepared themselves for an overnight adventure they are sure to never forget.



Classrooms were transformed into bedrooms as dozens of sleeping mats, bags, pillow and cuddly toys were strategically placed in each of the Year 2 classrooms. The children were bouncing with excitement as they made their way to the playground to enjoy a scrumptious BBQ dinner. With energy levels restored after their feast of hot dogs and kebabs the children were ready for some games! Year 2 was a fantastic example of good sportsmanship as they cheered and congratulated each other throughout the games.

Before we knew it the sky was growing dark and it was time to get ready for bed. After much brushing and washing, the children settled themselves down to watch a movie. Laughter echoed through the empty school as the children giggled at the antics of Alvin and the chipmunks.



Year 2 about to begin their BBQ



Year 2 soon fell asleep



Elephants' Mental Maths test at 5.30am

A calming bedtime story followed the movie and before we knew it the children were sleepily climbing into their sleeping bags and whispering quietly to their friends before falling asleep. Morning came too soon. The teachers woke to giggles and whispers as the children shuffled around talking to their friends. They all agreed that it was incredibly strange waking up in school. Mr Hollidge even gave Elephants a mental maths test! I think it is safe to say that the year 2 sleepover was a great success, enjoyed by all children and adults involved! A great way to bring our school year to a close.

STEP INTO THE PAST

By Kirsty McCarra, Year 4 Herons Class Teacher

This term, the Year 4 children have been time travelling, collecting evidence of different periods in history to preserve it for the people of the future! Their ultimate task was to gather all of this evidence and present it in a museum to share their learning and knowledge.

The children created timelines, fast facts and a plethora of interactive activities suitable for all ages to share their wisdom of their chosen time period. Represented in the museum were artefacts and activities ranging from the dinosaurs through Ancient Egypt and Greece, WWII and ending up in the future with artwork and futuristic compositions.

The morning saw visits from the Year 4 parents who loved taking part in the tricky quizzes, testing how much they had been paying attention to the fantastic presentations. The museum was then visited by children from Reception all the way up to Year 6. It was fantastic to see the children tailor their information to suit their diverse audience, helping the Reception children colour in Aztec masks and testing the Year 6 children on their knowledge of Viking symbols! The children did a fantastic job, and have truly preserved the past for future generations!



SANLITUN HAD TALENT

By Henry Charlesworth, Music Teacher

After weeks of auditions and rehearsals, this week saw the final of the annual “Sanlitun’s got Talent” competition. Over 100 children auditioned for the competition back in May and on Monday the final 8 acts showed us all what it takes to make it to the final.

Mrs Armstrong’s “favourite assembly of the year” was another singing, dancing, swashbuckling and cup-tapping extravaganza which did not disappoint. Children, teachers and parents were treated to an afternoon which, along with incredible talent, showed how creative, enthusiastic and committed children of BSB Sanlitun can be.



To close the show, several teachers gave a gringe-inducing performance of their own which, although highly entertaining, seemed to accentuate just how talented the children in the final were!

The eventual winner was the fabulous Ella Chen from year 5 who performed a beautiful Mongolian dance to open the show. Here poise and grace were a joy to witness as she mesmerised the audience with her movement on the stage. A huge congratulations to Ella and all the participants for making Monday afternoon’s assembly truly unforgettable!



A GREAT YEAR IN THE EARLY YEARS

By Kirsten Harding, Early Years Leader

In spite of Hand, Foot and Mouth disease it has actually been a fantastic year in Early Years this year. It has been great to watch all the children, from the youngest child in Tadpoles class to the oldest child in Reception, making solid progress in their learning.

All the children have performed on stage during the year. At Christmas the Reception children showed how well they could remember their lines and sing during "Born in a Barn" and most recently the Pre-Nursery and Nursery children performed "Old McDonald had a Farm" to the Reception and Key Stage 1 children. What confident children they have all become.

This week we have also celebrated our Reception children graduating from the Early Years, and they most certainly proved that they are now ready to move into Year 1.

Thank you also for your support during the year. Our Stay and Play days were a huge success and it was great to see so many of you come along and see what happens during your child's day and to actively participate in activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer break. To those of you who are moving on I would like to say "Au Revoir". To those who are staying I look forward to seeing you again in August.



KEY STAGE 2 CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

By Zoe Hubbard, Key Stage 2 Leader

We have come to the end of another amazing year in Key Stage 2. The children have thrived in our busy environment and each child has had the opportunity to shine in their unique way. The classrooms have been filled with exciting and investigative learning through our cross curricular topics which have included traveling coast to coast, blasting into space, exploring fairgrounds, investigating the planet, discovering ancient tombs and becoming time travelers just to name a few.

In addition, the children found time to put on two memorable productions with 'Elf' in lower KS2 and 'Shrek' in upper KS2. The presenting, acting, singing and dancing was not limited to these as there were also eight outstanding KS2 class assemblies throughout the year and many children have been involved in KS2 assemblies and orchestra and choral performances.



End of term fun in Year 3!

This has been a fantastic year for sport in KS2 and there have been many sporting accomplishments during inter-house competitions through to FOBISIA. The highlight of the year for many children will be their residential. Each of the residential locations offers the children a unique learning experience and special memories are made from spending time away from school with classmates. As always, when they were away from Sanlitun, the children were great ambassadors for the school.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the KS2 team for their creativity, commitment and hard work throughout the year and in particular during this long final term. On behalf of the KS2 staff, I would like to thank the children for arriving at school each morning with smiles on their faces and for showing such enthusiasm towards their learning which makes our job so rewarding. Last, but not least, a final thank you goes to you as parents who have supported us both in school and with your child's learning at home.

As we have come to the end of the term, we sadly have to say good-bye to the children and families who are moving on and we wish all the children good luck in their new schools next term. They are all well prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.

I wish all of you a fantastic summer break wherever in the world you are travelling to and we look forward to hearing about your adventures from our returning children in August.

INCREDIBLE INNER MONGOLIA!

By Paul Gildea, Year 6 Eagles Class Teacher

Wow! What an amazing adventure Year 6 had in Inner Mongolia! We flew to Hohhot, and after a night in the hotel we headed to the grasslands where we got to see Mongolian wrestling and horse riding, and even spent the night in a yurt. We had the chance to explore the provincial museum, Dazhao and Meidaizhao Lamaseries, which were all very interesting. The best fun of all was to be had in the desert where we rode camels, raced in dune buggies and played in the sand dunes. We didn't want to come back!



Year 6 on the grasslands



Year 6 graduation ceremony

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

By Paul Gildea, Year 6 Eagles Class Teacher

Last week Year 6 had their Graduation Ceremony. This is a really moving occasion when we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 students, and thank them for being such great role models for the younger children at our school. House Captains, Sports Captains, Librarians – it's often easy to forget how much responsibility we actually give our oldest children, and they always rise to the occasion. During our Graduation Ceremony we heard speeches from Meijie and Philip, representing the children who have been part of our school for many years, and those who have arrived more recently. Year 6 shared some of their reflections about their time at BSB, and I'm sure their parents were so proud to see what mature young men and women they have become. We will miss you!

KEY STAGE 1 - WORKING TO THE VERY END

By Rebecca Kerry, Key Stage 1 Leader

We have had a fantastic last week in KS1. Both Year 1 and Year 2 have spent the week finishing off their topics as well as enjoying splash parties and other celebrations. Year 1 completed their own versions of the book The Very Angry Ladybird which look amazing. Using their Africa theme, they changed the characters to hippos, crocodiles and other African animals and even managed to use speech marks and alternative words for 'said'. Fantastic!

The Year 2's have been finishing off their Dragon topic. They painted their 3D heads and added features like eyes and tongues and also finished their dragon information books. Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the week was learning that Princess Bertha has been released by the dragon because he was so happy with the Year 2 children's dragon work! It was an exciting finish to fantastic topic.



ANNUAL PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

Each year we carry out an annual parent satisfaction survey to help us improve our understanding of how we are performing in key areas - what we are doing well and the areas where we can improve, so that we can continue to provide the best possible educational experience for your child.

This year's survey was held in May and over 47% of our parents participated. We would like to say thank you to everyone who shared this valuable feedback. These results, along with continuous guidance and review with Nord Anglia's Education Team, enable us to create a strategic plan which ensures improvement and development for our school.

Key Findings

We are very proud of our 2015 results which represent the collective hard work and dedication of everyone at our school. In particular the following areas were highlighted as being some of our strengths:

- 94% of parents agree that their child receives a high quality education
- 94% of parents agree that the school provides a good learning environment for their child
- 94% of parents agree that their child is happy at school
- 92% of parents agree that their child has developed their social skills, independence and confidence at school
- 94% of parents agree that there are good relationships between parents and teachers
- 90% of parents agree that they are kept up to date with key information from school
- 94% of parents would recommend our school to others

Each year we use our Parent Satisfaction Survey results as well as feedback received throughout the year to try and make further improvements to our school. From the survey results this year we have already begun to look at how we might address areas that you have highlighted for improvement:

- Enabling our students to access a wider range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities
- How we can communicate your child's achievements and academic progress more clearly
- How we can further promote global citizenship amongst our students
- How we can better promote a healthy lifestyle to our students

We will keep you updated on our progress in each of these areas next academic year. Once again, thank you for your continued support of The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun; your feedback is invaluable as we continue to enhance teaching and learning at our school for every student.

