

Friday 6th June 2014



Year 2 enjoying a picnic in Si De Park on their recent visit to 798

PREPARING FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

The great weather has remained with us this week and the students at BSB Sanlitun have continued to make the most of outdoor learning in the sunshine. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we enjoy the warm and clear skies for the remainder of the term as we still have many more events and activities to enjoy outside.

At this time of year, we are well into plans for the next academic year and we will be sending home information nearer the end of term which will help you and your children prepare for the new school year. This will include curriculum information, dates for your diary as well as ideas to help while away the long summer holidays.

Of course we must not forget that we still have three weeks of learning left at school and teachers and students are still busy with their topics, going on educational visits and residentials, and for some of our students they are also completing end of year assessments. It is also a time when students are thinking about moving into the next year group, the next Key Stage and for our Nursery children a move over to the Primary Campus. Before the end of the term, all of the children will get an opportunity to visit their new classrooms and get a chance to meet their new teacher in person or via presentation, which I'm sure they will love telling you about.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend - let's hope the sun keeps shining!

SUMMER EVENTS

9th to 12th June
Year 6 Residential to
Inner Mongolia

17th June
Key Stage 2 Sports Day

18th June
Year 6 Graduation

19th June
Early Years Production
followed by
Pastries with Parents

Reception visit to the
Botanical Gardens

20th June
Year 2 Sleepover

Year 4 celebration of work

22nd June
End of Year Family Picnic

23rd June
Nursery visit to the beach

25th June
Reception Graduation

Reports to Parents

26th June
A Review of the Year
Assembly

School closes for the summer
3:30pm

PARENT FOCUS GROUPS

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

Earlier this week you would have received an email from me detailing some Focus Groups I would like to organise as part of planning and preparation for next year. As a school we are really keen to involve parents when making changes to aspects of school life as it helps us to make informed decisions. We also like to involve the students as much as we possibly can and many of you will be aware that they were all involved in the design of the Urban Sports Centre that was created in the basement of the Primary Campus last year.

There are three Focus Groups that I have proposed:

Music – changes to PIPs (Primary Instrumental Programme) – relevant for parents of Year 1 to 6 students

We have been reviewing the current programme whereby children in years 1 to 6 have a weekly instrumental lesson and looking at alternative Music arrangements. There would be no changes to the Individual Music Programme.

The use of technology in the classroom, including the use of the Global Classroom – relevant for parents of all students and Year 4 to Y6 parents for Global Classroom

With continued advancements of Information Technology, how does this impact on our students and the skills and knowledge they need to develop? To what extent should we be using technology in the classroom and through which means? Are you aware of the Global Classroom (Year 4 to 6)? What impact has this had on your child's learning? How could we improve this area of learning beyond the classroom?

Our 3 promises – relevant for parents of all students

All of our parents were invited to participate in an online survey that asked about your basic expectations of us, what we did that amazed you and what you considered as irritants. We have used the analyses of the results from the survey to create 3 promises, currently in draft form, which would form the core expectations of our school. We would like to share these with you to gather some feedback as to whether these promises best reflect what our school has to offer.

If you would like to participate in one or all of these focus groups, please drop me an email at:
lisa.milanec@britishschool.org.cn

BEACH FUN AND TRANSPORT IN THE EARLY YEARS

By Nicola Jones, Nursery Clown Fish Class Teacher

We are all about transport in Pre-Nursery this week. We have been building long train tracks for our trains to move along and little roads for our cars also. We even made our role play areas into garages so that we could bring our bicycles to school and pump petrol maybe even giving our wheels a good wash too!



Pre-Nursery children exploring the topic of transport; building roads and travelling on their scooters



This week in Nursery we have packed our suitcases and are heading on our holidays to the beach! The children have been busy thinking about all the things they will need to pack in order to be fully prepared for fun at the seaside! We decided swimsuits, bucket and spade, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen were the most important items and maybe even an umbrella so we can have some shade if we need it.

We then looked at some of the initial sounds of important words like beach, sea and holiday and played a game where we had to find and sort lots of different items beginning with those sounds. We had to make sure we really used our concentration but thought quickly and accurately in order to get the items in the right places!

We have also been thinking about sun safety and talking about all the things we do to protect ourselves when we go in the sun. Even though we enjoy the weather being warmer and the sun shining, we know that the sun is very strong and that we need to be careful so that our delicate skin is protected and doesn't burn.



Nursery children planning for their visit to the beach



We understand why we need to wear, sun screen, a hat and even sunglasses and so we made some fabulous sunglasses, which we decorated and cut ourselves before putting them together. We decided they were better to wear inside though and that we should wear the ones our mummy and daddy bought for us outside!

YEAR 1 EXPLORE THE FLOWER MARKET

By Roxanne Wood, Year 1 Lions Class Teacher

Year 1 recently visited the flower market as part of their 'Honey I Shrunk the Class' topic. The children were extremely well behaved and coped well with the extremely hot weather! We hunted around the jungle of plants finding seeds, different colours and types of flowers as well as plants that were taller than us! Every class learnt a lot about plants and even got to buy some colourful flowers to help them with their observational drawings at school.



Year 1 Lions surrounded by beautiful flowers and plants

YEAR 2 VISIT 798

By Jonathan Breden,
Year 2 Alligators Class Teacher

Last week Year 2 went on an incredible trip to Beijing's famous art district, 798. It was an incredible day and the children were lucky enough to become part of the brand new exhibition in the UCCA gallery. The staff at the gallery provided us with paints, brushes and aprons and encouraged the children to paint anything they wanted to on the walls and even the floor. Following this we went on a walk around the area to look at the old train and the remaining factories. We concluded our trip by having lunch at Si De Park in Lido. After the picnic the children got to play games on the grass.



Year 2 girls painting everything around them at 798

TREMENDOUS TIME TRAVEL

By Laura McGregor, Year 4 Kingfishers Class Teacher

Since the start of the term, Year 4 have been tasked to travel back in time to different points in history to find as many sources of information about the past as possible and record it in many different ways.

So far the intrepid children have visited a number of time periods. First up was the world of ancient reptiles and dinosaurs, long before humans evolved. They then travelled to ancient China during their trip to Pingyao where they learnt about many ancient customs and traditions. They have met many historical figures including famous artists, scientists, writers, inventors and rulers. We were transported to a house in London during the Blitz of World War 2, where we heard the Prime Minister of the time speaking on the radio and even experienced an air raid. We went to Victorian Britain where we found many artefacts from the time and met our old friend, Philleas Fogg, who told us all of the huge developments in science, technology and transport at the time.



Just some of the replica artefacts that the Year 4 students have been making and creating

On our travels we have been thinking of all the different sources of information we could use to find out about the past such as household objects, paintings, letters, diaries, photographs and so on. We have been using our skills of enquiry, connection finding, fluent thinking and flexible thinking when examining different sources of information, discussing what we can learn from them and identifying any possible bias.



For homework the children have been busy creating replica artefacts from an ancient civilisation. We shall be discovering these when we travel back in time to these different eras and will examine the items to see what we can learn about the times from them. The children have put a lot of thought and creativity into their artefacts, which will feature in our very own museum at the end of term.

ONCE UPON A TIME....

By Charlotte Cummins, Reception Sea Lions Class Teacher



Reception children paired up with Year 2 children this week to enjoy some 'Buddy Reading' time!

Year 2's chose their favourite book and enjoyed reading and sharing it with the Reception classes. The Reception children showed excellent listening skills and asked interesting questions about the books and the characters in the stories.

It was also a valuable time for the Reception children to get to know some of the children in Year 2, to make new friendships and use this to identify someone new to play with on the playground.



Reception children sitting and listening beautifully whilst the Year 2 children share their favourite books

HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH LEARNING IS AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

It won't be long until we are taking a long summer break. Over the summer holidays your children will be learning lots of things through life experience, everyday routines and through an abundance of opportunities for learning. Through it all there are chances for you to help foster their love of, and commitment to learning and never giving up. A few simple words can make all the difference. Below I have listed some ways of approaching conversation to aid positive learning.

'It's OK to make a mistake, you will learn lots of things from it to improve and get better.'

If children can see that mistakes also have benefits they are less likely to give up at the first mistake, and use it to their advantage in the future.

'You can't do it? You mean you can't do it yet!'

Such a small word, 'yet' but it can make all the difference. Children need to believe that with practise and perseverance they will improve at things and begin to master them.

'I couldn't do that straight away either, but I kept trying and I became better and better.'

Make a connection by showing you also find some things hard, and that not giving up is the way to get better at things that you find tricky.

'I know you will be able to do this.'

Give encouragement to promote a desire and belief that they can do it. Your praise and encouragement is invaluable.

'Wow, I can see the improvement you have made!'

Knowing that you have made some improvement for the hard work you have put in is really important. No matter how small the progress, it is always worth letting your child know you can see it.



Practice makes perfect



Of course, these are just a few of many ways to help your child with learning, through simple conversation, and I hope you find them useful.

Positive learning conversation will stand them in good stead for the new academic year, wherever you will be calling home.

PICNIC @ BSB SANLITUN ON THE 22ND JUNE 2014, 3 – 7PM

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

Picnic, defined as ‘an excursion or outing in which the participants carry food with them and share a meal in the open air’.

We hope that the sun will be shining for us and we have the opportunity to sit outside and enjoy sharing food and drink at the BSB Sanlitun Picnic. Ideas for picnic food include things like sandwiches, sushi, pizza, vegetable and fruit pieces, and any other easy to eat food that you will bring with you. As well as the picnic we will have Indian food and BBQ on offer as well. We will also be serving chilled drinks to keep everyone cool in the hot weather.



There will be some entertainment for the kids in the form of a bouncy castle, ball pool, football, balloons and a movie. It is a fantastic way to get together and enjoy our community before the summer holidays begin. We may be saying goodbye to some of our friends, and just a ‘see you soon’ to others. Whatever the reason, we can’t wait to get together as a school community to share an afternoon with you.

Parents Association

CHARITY JUMBLE SALE



Saturday 14 June
11am - 3pm
BSB Sanlitun Hall

Please donate **clothes, toys, games, shoes, bric-a-brac. NO FURNITURE or BIKES THIS TIME.**

Find a bargain on the day or items will be distributed to families in need by Roundabout.

**Drop Off: Thursday 12th and Friday 13th
at BSB Sanlitun Primary Campus**

**Enquiries or to volunteer: Email Shigemi
at jsjestanding@outlook.com.**