

Friday 13th June 2014



Year 6 posing for a photo against the backdrop of the Gobi desert

COMING TO THE END OF A BUSY TERM

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

This week at Sanlitun has been one of preparation; our Early Years students are busy rehearsing for their end of year production; our Key Stage 2 children are practising and honing their sporting skills and techniques ready for their Sports Day next week and our Year 2 children are brimming with excitement in readiness for their Sleepover which will take place next Friday.

This week was also the week our Y6 students went on their residential to Inner Mongolia. Returning very late last night there were still some happy albeit tired faces at school this morning regaling tales of their experiences - a night in a yurt, trekking across the desert and riding a camel.

Having now completed all our residential across Key Stage 2, I would like to thank all the teachers and teaching assistants who accompanied the children on their excursions to Jinshanling, Pingyao, Xi'an and Inner Mongolia. Taking children on a residential requires even more time and energy on the part of the staff and for the entire duration of the trip they are on call 24/7. They take on the role of surrogate parents for the week. Without such dedication from our staff we would not be able to facilitate such experiences for the children, but we know how vastly important it is to provide such opportunities for our students.

We hope that all the children that have been away on residential this term have taken away some memories of their travels that they will never forget.

SUMMER EVENTS

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

EARLY YEARS PREPARE FOR SUMMER

By Eryn Watts, Pre-Nursery Starfish Class Teacher

This week Pre Nursery have been preparing for our upcoming adventures by talking about travel. Tadpoles have been looking at cars and made some paintings using the tracks of cars to make marks. Starfish have been talking about flight, what can fly and where we go on airplanes. Both classes have been preparing for transitions to go into the next class and Pre Nursery spent some time in the Nursery classrooms, getting to know the teachers and classrooms.



Pre Nursery children building tracks for their different modes of transport



Concentrating really hard to make sure the tyre keeps balancing

EARLY YEARS CONTINUED...

In Nursery this week we are off to the beach. As well as preparing our passports we have been finding out about the flags of the world and using our super sounds to read the names of the countries. Our seaside sums were amazing as we chose beach balls, shells and crabs to count!

Watch this space for our up and coming production when we'll be down in the jungle!



Seaside counting!

This was also the last week of swimming. Children took the opportunity to splash in the water one more time and celebrated their newfound confidence in the water with a trip into the deep pool! Children went one on one into the deep pool with swimming noodles and practiced kicking their legs all the way to the end of the pool and back. It will be sad to see the end of the swimming experience and we look forward to swimming season next year!



Using the noodles to stay afloat



Making a big splash in the big pool!

SHAPE MADNESS IN RECEPTION

By Louise Bateman, Reception Whales Class Teacher



Creating patterns with 2D shapes



Creating shapes with our bodies

Reception children have been going shape crazy for the past few weeks. We have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have learnt mathematical words such as edges, sides, corners, vertices and faces so that we can describe common 2D and 3D shapes and self-regulate whether we have named each shape we see correctly. We then learnt a song all about 2D shapes and collaborated by making our bodies into the shapes mentioned in the song! We also made Father's Day cards by putting 2D shapes together and drawing around them. We made rockets, animals, people, houses, cars and much more.



PINHOLE PROS

By Michael Aryiku, Year 3 Toucans Class Teacher

Monday morning saw the Year 3 children take part in a range of photography activities, linked to their topic Through the Lens. After being given a brief introduction to the morning, the children were split into three groups, where they carried out three interesting and fun activities.

The first of these activities saw the children make their very own pin hole cameras. Painting the inside of shoe boxes black, the children proceeded to cut a small hole in the front of their boxes. With the help of the adults, a piece of aluminium, pierced with a minute hole was attached to the front. The children then had to wait for the paint to dry before using the cameras to take photographs.



For the second activity, the children were taken inside a camera! After turning the meeting room at the front of the school into a dark room, a small hole was left allowing the light from outside to come in. With a white sheet draped across the wall facing the hall, the lights were turned off. After their eyes adjusted to the darkness, the children began to notice the reflection from outside, projected onto the inside walls of the meeting room. Not only could we see buildings but also the people and cars that were passing! The children then took a photograph of the walls whilst inside the camera, helping them to understand how a real camera works!

The third activity left the children stunned, amazed and yearning for more! After turning the small room at the end of our corridor into a dark room, the children learnt about how photographs were developed many years ago, using developer and fixer liquid. The children left their handprints on a piece of photographic paper before developing it!

“That’s the most amazing thing I’ve ever seen!” exclaimed Cecily. And it was for the teachers too!



THE BEAUTY OF WRITING

By Paul Gildea, Year 5 Pelicans Class Teacher

Writing well is a subtle art. We have to consider our audience, our use of language, our punctuation, our grammar and syntax, not to mention our handwriting and presentation. When was the last time that you tried to concentrate on five different things and do all of them to a high standard? Often we find it difficult to focus on more than one thing for any period of time, and yet that is what we are expecting of our children every time they pick up a pencil. It can be easy to forget that we are expecting some advanced cognitive processes from some very young children. However, let us not shy away from having high expectations of our children – set the challenge and BSB children consistently find that they are equal to it.



In Year 5 we have been exploring myths and legends. Having examined the features of myths and compared various examples, we are now in a position to start planning and writing our own. Our children have high expectations of what they can achieve - consider this analysis of a myth by one of our Year 5 students:

'A common feature of myths is the use of anthropomorphised animals.'

By giving our children the skills, and just as importantly the opportunities to discuss, debate, challenge and question, we are in a very real way enabling them to become expert writers. Talk is vital. It shapes our ideas and helps us make sense of our language. A favourite maxim of mine is, 'If we can say it, we can write it.' Having the confidence to discuss our thoughts and ideas, and having the vocabulary to do so is the key to high performance writing. Those are the expectations that we have of our children, expectations that we share as a school community.

INNER MONGOLIA ADVENTURES

By Emma Johnson and Ryan Ho, Year 6 Eagles Students

On our first day after arriving in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, the Eagles went to a Lama monastery where we learnt some very interesting facts about the religion of Buddhism. Later we visited an old market where the Year 6 students found lots to buy. After all the excitement of shopping and exploring the temple we had lunch and checked into our hotel. Then before our delicious dinner we had 2 fun rounds of bowling. Julien was the superstar bowler!



Tsepang practising her archery skills

On the third day, we left the grasslands for the Hohhot city and the Provincial museum. We saw the amazing 20 feet long Nurosaurus and one of the most famous dinosaur skeletons in the world, a Sinosauroteryx.

After the museum, we went to our hotel swimming pool. We frolicked and played in the swimming pool before our hotpot dinner. We cooked our own lamb meat, beef, and noodles in soup pots. It was delicious!

Next, we watched a special documentary in our hotel about the famous Genghis Khan, the ruler of 1200 Mongolia. We saw how he conquered China single-handedly and crossed the Great Wall of China by just going around it!



Riding camels in the Gobi desert

On our second day in Hohhot, we started off with a wonderful buffet breakfast followed by a drive to the grasslands. During our time there the Eagles enjoyed many different activities, all related to the Inner Mongolian culture. For example: archery, Mongolian wrestling, horse races and traditional dancing. We also went for a fun and energetic hike, followed by a delicious BBQ dinner.



The whole gang together

After a good night's rest, we went to a palace of an ancient Mongolian ruler. It was converted to a temple in later times and still is used as one now. After the temple, we went to a place in the Gobi desert called the singing sands. We did many activities, such as riding camels, sand-sliding and going on an all-terrain vehicle that drove us from place to place very fast. Finally we made the journey to the airport to commence our journey home. It was a great trip to Inner Mongolia and an amazing experience to end our final year of studies at The British School of Beijing, Sanlitun!

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.**