

Friday 23rd January 2015



CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGHOUT SANLITUN

By Lisa Milanec, Principal

What a productive week we have had this week at BSB Sanlitun!

Walking around the school, there has been a buzz of busyness coming from all the classrooms and the students have been telling me all about their learning during their lunchtimes. You won't believe all the different activities that have taken place in just one week - hopefully these next few pages will give you a small glimpse.

The teaching staff have spent time reflecting on the teaching and learning taking place across the school and this week came together to look at and discuss a range of work from across each of the classes. This is an excellent exercise in order to look at the progression of work taking place from Early Years all the way through to Year 6 and ensure that at each stage we are setting high expectations for our students. It was fascinating to see how children's writing develops as their fine motor skills become more precise as well as the use of more grammatical techniques in the content of their writing. It was also great to see the development of mathematical strategies as children moved through the school, their understanding of the number system and their application of this to more complex mathematical problems. We also thoroughly enjoyed looking at the investigative work students have been conducting as part of the Science curriculum.

It is really fantastic for our teaching team to get together on a regular basis and celebrate the achievements of our students; it is always our aim to provide the best possible opportunities for our students and to help them grow into ambitious and successful young men and women.

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th January
Family Trip to Ice Festival
@ Longqing Gorge

27th January
Years 3 & 4
FOBISIA Swimming Training
3pm - 4.30pm

3rd February
PA Meeting
9am @ Primary Campus

Years 3 & 4
FOBISIA Swimming Training
3pm - 4.30pm

8th February
BSB Sanlitun's
Chinese New Year
Temple Fair
@ Primary Campus
11am - 2 pm

13th February
School Finishes @ 3.30pm

16th - 23rd February
Chinese New Year Holiday

24th February
School Resumes

2nd March
Primary Campus
Swimming Season Begins

YEAR 5 VISIT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

By Elizabeth Jurgensen, Year 5 Pelicans Class Teacher

This week the Year 5 children went to the Science Museum as part of the introduction to this term's unit on space. The children were able to see a life size replica of a rocket and envisage how the astronauts live inside, where they sleep, what they eat and how they entertain themselves and keep fit whilst inside the small space for long periods of time. They also got an opportunity to see what it would be like to train to go to the moon and what it would be like to walk on the moon.

Some quotes from the children about their learning at the museum:

Venetia: I thought astronauts would sleep in a bed but they sleep in a sack attached to the wall!

Lena: The three-dimensional rolling circle was great because you were able to imagine yourself in space not having any control of what you were doing.

Jason: I learnt that a spaceship is not very comfortable.

Dorothy: I learnt that astronauts have to have training on a rolling circle before they go into space so they don't get dizzy.

Pei-Jen: I learnt that a space ship is really big. They had to split it into 3 parts to fit it in the museum.

Edgar: The toilets in a space ship are different to ours. The waste goes into a storage space. You cannot have a shower so you have to use a sponge to wash.

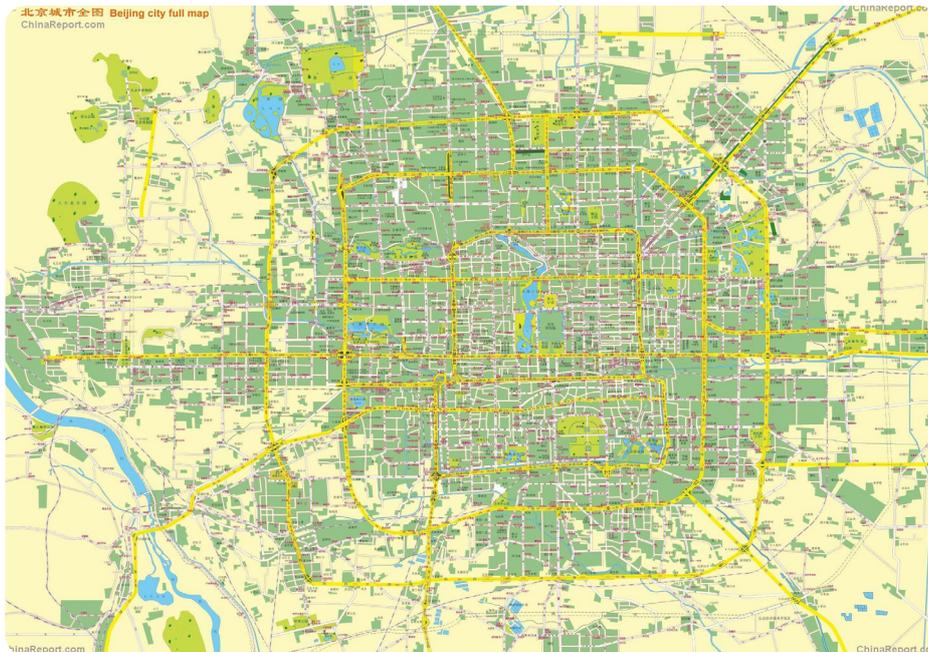


THE BIG WIDE WORLD

By Christine Armstrong, Deputy Headteacher

Fortunate as we are to live in an exciting city like Beijing it is always good to have a safe haven; a place where everything seems familiar and 'normal'. A school is one such example. No matter where you have come from in the world there is something comforting about walking through the doors of a school and having that feeling that you know how things work here.

Whilst school offers excellent teaching and learning throughout the week for the children who attend, as well as a wide range of community based events and clubs throughout the weeks, months and years it is important for us all to remember that there is a sprawling city out there at our fingertips. The opportunities in a city like ours are endless and the chances to learn are bountiful. Indeed, school is but a tiny bubble of learning within a vast city of learning opportunities outside of school time.



Over the years the amount of clubs and activities for children has increased hugely. No matter what activity, skill or sport you want to learn there seems to be a club or a company offering it somewhere.

We encourage all our children to foster a love of learning, which extends to outside of the school setting. Whether your children are learning music, sports, languages like Chinese, German or French, arts and crafts, dance or more, there are an abundance of opportunities throughout Beijing.

Good sources of information can be found in English expat magazines like BeijingKids, online groups like BeijingCafe, and shopping malls with activity outlets within them. However word of mouth is often the best way to find out about opportunities across the city. Ask friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances. You'll be surprised at what you can find!

SUPER SUPER SUPER HEROES!

By Hazel Old, Nursery Rainbow Fish Class Teacher



Our challenge this week in Nursery has been to become Superheroes. First of all we had to find out what a superhero looked like and what sort of things they do. Well, we all know Superman and Spiderman and we noticed they have masks, symbols, belts, capes and costumes but most of all they have super powers. We borrowed some of Super Ted's cosmic dust and made ourselves some masks and capes and then we were ready! First of all Walt had to be rescued from a tree then Sophia lost her glove. There were so many jobs that we needed our super powers for. Teachers noticed special acts of kindness and how the children checked their own behaviour and that of others to make sure we were all on track. Then we started spotting other Superheroes like the Ayis, the School Nurse and our Mummies. Superheroes are everywhere and it makes the world a better place.

Did we succeed in our mission? YES! Well done Nursery!



YEAR 3 EXPLORE THE CURRICULUM

By Michael Aryiku, Year 3 Toucans Class Teacher

This week, the pupils in Year 3 have been developing their writing skills, using their creativity in Computing whilst also learning about States of Matter in Science.

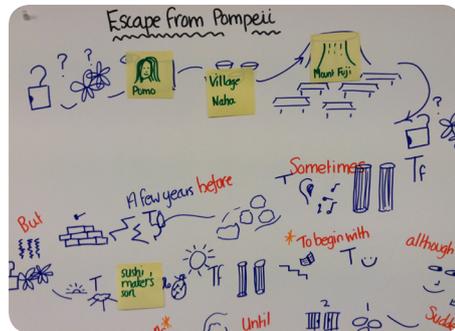
With our current topic, 'Active Planet', the Toucans, Parrots and Puffins have read and learnt the story, 'Escape from Pompeii', which tells the story of two young children living in the city of Pompeii when the catastrophic eruption of mount Vesuvius occurs. Following this, each class made up their own actions to aid them in retelling their story.

This week in class, the Year 3 children began to 'substitute' elements of the story, changing parts of the story with their own ideas. The Toucans class changed their main character from Tranio to twin sisters Victoria and Annie, Parrots set their story on the exquisite island of Hawaii and the Puffins had their new story set in Japan, nearby the towering Mount Fuji. Having worked collaboratively to adapt our original story, this week has seen the pupils challenge themselves in their writing, using detail and description in their writing to engage their reader.

Linking to our topic, the Computing lessons in Year 3 have seen the pupils use the programs Paint and Microsoft PowerPoint to begin creating their own volcanic eruptions simulations. Having drawn our images in Paint last week, we have been manipulating and changing them to show the process of a volcanic eruption whilst simultaneously learning new shortcuts.



Volcano simulations



Adapted story map of Escape from Pompeii



Retelling of Escape from Pompeii

In this week's Science lessons we concluded our investigations on whether evaporation occurs when water is boiled in a kettle. Did you know that it does take place?

Whilst also learning about how particles are formed in the different states of matter, the Year 3 pupils consolidated their understanding of the different scientific terms, playing a game of Go Fish, where they had to match different scientific terms with their definitions. For this week's investigative task, we planned and carried out an investigation to find out whether the mass of water was different when it changed from a solid to a liquid. Finally to support their reasoning skills (and for a bit of fun), the pupils were given an ice cube with the challenge of turning it into a liquid in the shortest amount of time. The pupils' methods ranged from sucking on the ice cube to holding the ice cube tightly in their hands. Nonetheless, all the pupils were able to melt their ice cubes and justify their chosen method. Be sure to ask the Year 3 pupils about their learning as it will soon include an experience of an explosive nature!

PENGUINS PENGUINS EVERYWHERE!

By Louise Bateman, Reception Whales Class Teacher

For the last 3 weeks, Reception children have been learning about arctic animals. We have learnt about their names, which habitat they prefer, lots of interesting facts about the animals, what their babies are called and how they survive in the cold. We have been focusing on our writing skills recently and having lots of experiences with letters and sounds around the classroom. We made our own penguin templates and thought of interesting facts about our favourite polar animal. We then sounded out each word and attempted to write a sentence such as 'a polar bear has a thick coat.' At home, our phonics homework has been to apply a sound we have been learning about in a sentence such as 'a goat has a coat' for the sound oa. It has been great to have the support from parents at home, particularly at this important stage when they are beginning to read and write. We are well on our way to writing all by ourselves!



Penguins all over our classroom!



Practising our writing



TERM 2 ASAS

By Harry Brookfield, P.E. Teacher

A big HELLO! from everyone in the ASA Team at BSB Sanlitun! The new term has started and with it the new After School Activities calendar too! Because of the cold winter months, all ASAs are indoors - but this hasn't limited choice or enjoyment! We have Art, Yoga, History Club and more going on as well as Ball Skills ASA taking place twice during the week in the Main Hall. The children are already having a good time, getting stuck in - and the teachers are too!



As well as the usual ASAs we also have several special activities occurring too. Through BSB Sanlitun's involvement with FOBISIA, the Federation of British International Schools in Asia, we have several competition themed clubs taking place. On a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday a large number of Key Stage 2 children are involved in FOBISIA Sport training which will result in the FOBISIA Primary Games to be held in Beijing later in the school year – something we are all looking forwards to! As well as FOBISIA Sport, there is also a FOBISIA Maths ASA taking place that will result in a competition to be held in Shanghai later in the year. Running parallel with our FOBISIA ASAs is a very special Nord Anglia Education club, Debating ASA, which will help to train the members of BSB Sanlitun Debating Team as they compete against other schools in the Nord Anglia Education group. So far BSB Sanlitun has done very well and won its early debates, so let us wish the team luck for the next round!

To coincide with this ASA article, we thought it would be nice to utilise the photographs taken by children in this term's Photography Club ASA, led by Miss Ash. A keen photographer herself, Miss Ash is teaching the children how best to use the iPad camera function and then how to edit the photos the children take on the computers. The results you can see for yourself as these photos were taken by the children and then edited afterwards – great work ASA Photography Club!



BSB SANLITUN'S CHINESE NEW YEAR TEMPLE FAIR

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY, 2015
11AM TO 2PM

OPTIONAL:
WHY NOT COME IN
TRADITIONAL
CHINESE CLOTHES?

Come and celebrate the Year of Sheep at BSB Sanlitun!
Friends and families are invited to join us to enjoy:

-  Traditional Chinese cuisine
-  Chinese arts and crafts for children
-  Lion dance performances
-  Chinese New Year performances
by our students



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