



Spring Newsletter - 2014

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Dear Members,

Your association is as busy as a beehive, as we are every spring: Student recruitment, registrations, preparations for next year, exams on the horizon, etc. Everyone: (Students, Pedagogical Director, Admin team, Teachers and Parents) has plenty to think of and to achieve. We would like to share how great it is to be part of the Aseica team where we all try our best and keep learning. That's what education, in all languages and cultures, is about! From us all: enjoy this newsletter and remember you can actively contribute too!

The Aseica Board

Dates to remember

May

22 May – College Play

24 May - Prom night for Terminales organized by the MDL

June

2-3 June – Written OIB Exam (TBC)

3 June - Primary Theatre Show (CM1, CM2) at CIV

16- 23 June - Bac

25-27 June - OIB Orals

July

4 July - Graduation

5 July - Summer holidays

International Day

Thank you everyone for a super International Day!

“Education changes lives,” was the theme chosen this year and it was certainly very lively in the Agora on Saturday 29 March!

Both the preparations leading to International Day and the day itself were a great experience, with a wide mix of people – including 100 volunteers – joining to make it possible. Many thanks to all!

Participants enjoyed the traditional MUN debate which focused on the question of providing equal access to education for girls. The colleges shared their perspectives on the theme and so did primary student who contributed their posters.

Mr. Brulant, CIV Proviseur, opened the celebrations in the presence of the Mr. Mathieu, Dareic and school directors. His speech was followed by a revised version of a Bruno Mars song presented by primary school students.

There was the superb food fare with super US hamburgers, Italian pasta, Spanish paella, Irish stew, Indian and Asian delicacies... not forgetting the usual delicious cakes from England and Australia! There were also new additions: a poetry stand with over 200 poems from college students; a stand organized by a small group of 3èmes to raise awareness of human trafficking, with a superb display of cakes: bravo for the initiative! A committed Indian parent attended the Indian food table, with the support of the Namasté association.

To date, 2 695 euros have been gathered, of which 559 euros came from the tombola. To this the Spanish and Italian section money needs to be added. Once all accounts are closed we will organize a short meeting to hand the associations' contributions to the MDL and the MUN group.

It is said that the journey counts as much as the destination: thank you to all who helped along the way, before, during and after!

Long live International day!

News from Guidance

One of the many joys of working in university guidance is the fact that things are always changing. Between their first visit to the office and their final choice of university, students often change their mind, gradually refining their plans until they discover exactly what's right for them. But universities change, too: we have gradually got used to the higher fees in England and to the higher demands from McGill, but this year we are noting that most of our students, even those with excellent grades, have been refused places at LSE and St Andrews, and this is something I shall be investigating when the busy admissions cycle is over for this year.

In the meantime, students are holding offers from Aberdeen, Aston, Bath, Birmingham, Birmingham City, Brighton, Bristol, Brunel, Cambridge, City, De Montfort, Durham, East Anglia, Edinburgh, East London, Essex, Exeter, Glasgow, Goldsmith, Imperial, Kent, King's College London, Kingston, Leeds, Leicester, Loughborough, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford Brooke, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Queen Mary, Ravensbourne, Reading, Robert Gordon, Royal Holloway, SAE, Southampton, Stirling, Strathclyde, Surrey, Sussex, UCL, Warwick, York. This is an excellent spread of UK universities to suit a wide range of students and their chosen subjects, which range from Chemistry to Drama, Environmental Science to Economics and English Literature to Mechanical Engineering, Politics, Business and Architecture amongst others. And despite the higher grade requirements from McGill, we already have 20 students with offers there.

Offers, too, from Erasmus in Rotterdam and University College Roosevelt in Middelburg, Holland; Concordia and HEC in Montreal, Canada; Duke, Columbia, Parsons and the Art Institute of Chicago in the US.

Once again, it's great to see that our bilingual OIB students have so much choice - and that's something that isn't going to change!

Lesley Scales

EMUN – 4th Conference

A very successful 4th annual EMUN conference was held on 26th and 27th March 2014 at the Eganaude College in Sophia Antipolis with 226 participants from 11 schools (see www.emun.fr).

Once again, the conference was a big success and the students were absolutely delighted with the whole event. 8 schools from across the region and over 200 students spent two days debating real issues that affect us all. A couple of quick highlights and thoughts:

1. This was our biggest year in terms of participation. Three years ago we brought a delegation of one country to this conference -- 5 total students (all from CIV). This year we had a delegation of 7 countries -- 33 students (from Niki and CIV). It is wonderful to see such enthusiasm. I should point out that Eganaude also had a very large group at the conference, but they typically do not come to the regular Wednesday sessions that we hold at CIV since they do it more formally at their own school.
2. The Committee Chairs were terrific again this year -- all of them are "veterans" of the EMUN Conference, including at least three 2nd students from CIV that were delegates just last year.
3. There were five committees running debates. Each committee Chair nominated a delegate as "Best Delegate" of the conference. Four out of the five were from our Wednesday group -- including two 4eme students (James Hall from the CIV and Anna Ritoper from Niki St Phalle). So congratulations to all the great debaters!

A lot of work went into these two days - writing resolutions, preparing arguments, practicing speeches, learning how to make a tie knot, etc. They were all sad to see it end, especially the 3emes who know this is their last EMUN. Not to fear, I told them. Lycée MUN awaits! Over to you, Rob.

Jonathan Scriven



Variety Show at the CIV - Tuesday March 17th and 18th





6eme entrance exams and admissions process

Testing for admission to the Anglophone sections in the CIV, Eganaude, Niki St Phalle and Cesar took place on April 8 and 9.

14 April: Results of the test for admission to the Anglophone section were posted on the French Académie website: www.ac-nice.fr and also posted in each college (CIV, Eganaude, Niki de St Phalle, César). Families whose children passed the test received a letter confirming which college their child/children were going to. A “waiting” list of the children who didn’t pass the test was also be posted on the French Académie website.

18 April: LAST DAY that families could confirm by contacting the Collège that they accepted the offer of a place in the Anglophone section. If they had not confirmed their acceptance of a place by April 18, this was taken as a refusal.

22 April: Parents of children on the waiting list were contacted by telephone. They need to confirm their place **by 7 MAY LATEST** by contacting the college to which their child has been assigned.

Admission process in 6ème at the Collège and at ASEICA

Once you have registered at the attributed college, you must also fill out an ASEICA registration form. These ASEICA registration forms, for children who passed the test, were available on line at www.aseica.org.

César Collège in Roquefort: enrolment open on 14, 15 & 16 May

CIV (Sophia Antipolis): Parents of children assigned to the CIV have to contact angelique.costa@ac-nice.fr to confirm their place. An e-mail with confirmation of acceptance was sent before April 25th. Included, was an explanation of the next steps to take. **IF THEY HAD NOT CONFIRMED THEIR PLACE BY APRIL 18, THIS WAS TAKEN AS A REFUSAL AND NO E-MAIL WAS SENT.**

Official registration papers will be send to the email address beginning June. This document will include dates and time for parents to appear in person to hand in papers at CIV. The date should be the week of June 16-20.

Eganaude : 14-18 April parents of children assigned received 2 forms to complete. Enrolment in June.

Niki : 14 to 18 April: Parents of children assigned to **Niki St Phalle** should have picked-up an enrolment form for the College. The completed form should be handed in to the college during the College Open Day on 14 June. Students must bring along their completed college and enrolment ASEICA forms. Niki St Phalle College Office hours are: 8:30-16h30 daily apart from Wednesday, which is 8:30-11:30.

Families must remember to register with both the college and ASEICA.

Exchange and Trips

After two months of intense and exciting work, here is the latest information on Seconde exchanges.

19 Seconde students from our section are confirmed to go to Oceania on June 13 for six weeks. Three Sydney correspondents will arrive on Nov 30 and twelve students from Dunedin, NZ will arrive one week later, also for six weeks. One CIV student's file is on stand by, waiting for possible news from a family to welcome him.

We are looking to strengthen the exchange programme, possibly to increase the nr of places available, and for sure wanting to increase the relation between the programme and our section's philosophy. We suggested to the partner schools that students work on a very important OIB History-Geography related topic: WWI, with the idea of sharing stories, stories they have been told about the First World War and how the commemoration is lived today. The three partner schools welcomed this very positively.

A growing number of students show interest in spending time in Anglophone countries to experience life abroad in English. Unfortunately, we cannot satisfy this growing demand with our current resources.

There are several short study trips organized by teachers for their classes. This year two groups will go to London and one is just back from Verona. For the long Seconde exchange trip to Oceania, 19 CIV students are confirmed, and we are still hoping for one more space to be confirmed. We call on all interested parents to share their experiences and possible contacts to help us identify schools in English speaking countries that could be interested in establishing exchange programs with us. If you have any questions or ideas, please write to schoolexchangetrip@gmail.com
We welcome suggestions and offers for exchanges. Contact: 'schoolexchangetrip@aseica.org'

Gold medal for the CIV fencing champions

After being French champions in 2011 and 2012 and vice champions in 2013, our CIV fencers were determined to reclaim the title.

This year the UNSS championship, bringing together the best fencers of colleges and high schools, was held on 1 and 2 April in Mandelieu.

In order to mount the top step of the podium, Auriane Hansen, Corentin Jaouen and Raphael Van Hoffelen had to eliminate Meylan (which has two members of the French team) and then face Orleans.

The last battle was fought fiercely until the last key, under the cries and encouragement of the room and their sister team (Clara Rouyer, Noemi Lacroix and Hugo Soubrier) who took 10th place.

Our two teams are in the image of CIV and its motto "enriched by our differences," a real mix : of girls and boys; of German section and English section students; of students from 2nde , 1^{re} , Terminale and Prépa.

We are also proud of our three referees.

Matthis is only one point away from national arbitration , Gabriel -who is in college- was asked to judge the Lycée games, while Maxence was assigned nothing less than the finals!

In addition to this victory, one of the highlights of the competition was fighting against valid and invalid teams. That's the sporting spirit: exchanges, combativeness and respect.

Our fencers left exhausted but excited to offer this hard-earned gold medal to their dedicated coach and PE teacher, Claudine Ducoeur, whose birthday it was.

Beatrice Courel



News from Primary

You can really tell that Spring is in the air in our Primary classes given all the activities that the children and staff have been busy doing!

Anglo French week at Sartoux

Sartoux Primary held their now traditional Anglo week to give a flavor of Anglophone activities to the rest of the school. This project relies heavily on sporty parents to come in and remember how to play hockey, netball and cricket and on a local coach who provides baseball. This year we were really lucky to have the Antibes Rugby Club offer a couple of sessions at the nearby stadium thanks to Jo Franceschini. The dancers enjoyed tap dancing, Scottish dancing and cheerleading and there was skipping in the yard. For non sporty pupils, there was reading and short dvds, mostly Julia Donaldson, as she is so much fun to read and listen to. The Mairie in Valbonne kindly allowed us to take over the menu for one day and there was an American menu provided. A huge thank you to all parents, teachers and canteen staff involved.

Theatre

As this goes out, there has only been the first Theatre show of the year for the CP and CE1 classes in both schools. It was a fantastic show with lots of different story lines, songs and props!

A big “thanks” to the parents who showed great support in helping their children prepare and learn their lines, sew costumes and finally come in to watch their children.

Another big “thanks” goes to the theatre and class teachers for all their hard work and many hours put into giving the children and parents a great show.

Not forgetting of course to thank the theatre staff for all their help during dress rehearsals and on the evening too.



International Primary Social Committee

The IPSC has also been busy with activities.

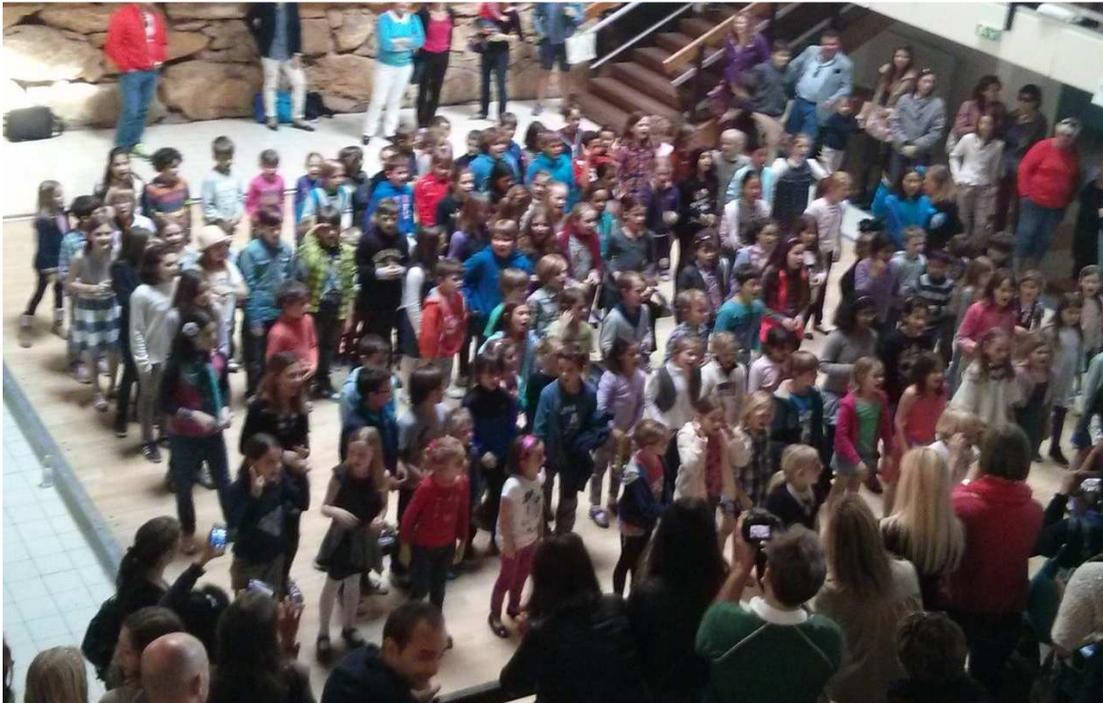
So far this year, we have had a joint coffee morning then a coffee morning in each school. We are getting ready for a Spring coffee morning before the Easter holidays.

The theatre night snacks table is also run by the IPSC with much help and support from parents. Thank you for Sophie Pearce for organizing and running this project.

The traditional International Day Song was brilliant, with a great turnout from the Primary schools. The children sang beautifully and thanks again to the teachers for preparing the song. There was also the usual Poster competition based on the theme 'Education Changes life.' Primary children spent much time and thought on their contributions, which looked really good in the top corner of the AGORA building.

The Tombola was also a great success thanks to all of the support from parents throughout the section (primary, college and lycee).

Finally, coming up on the IPSC calendar are the Spring Coffee Morning, another theatre night, a Parent Teacher Lunchtime get together and a Coffee Morning for Parents whose children will be joining us in September. Keep an eye on your emails for the invitations and should you wish to help with any of these events, please do email us on ipsc@aseica.org



Outings

Haut Sartoux

Miss Roy's CM2 class had a lovely week on the Ile de Lerins, a shared trip with a French CM1/CM2 class. They were really lucky with the weather, which was lovely and warm and also calm for the crossing. They did lots of fun activities and enjoyed the week away from school. Thanks to the parents who gave up so much of their time to go with them and to Miss Roy who, undeterred, is going off to Tende with the CM1's in June!

Trois Collines

There was a great week away for the CM1/CM2 class in Beuil. For many pupils this was their first opportunity to try out cross-country skiing which was a great success. Other activities they tried out included sledging and building igloos, again much enjoyed by all. Thanks to the parents accompanying the children in the bus to and back from the centre and to the staff in Beuil.

Eleanor Roberts Picq

“Mort d’un Commis Voyageur” (Death of a Salesman) at the Theatre National de Nice

On Thursday, March 13th, sixty Terminale and Premiere students attended the play « Mort d’un Commis Voyageur” (Death of a Salesman) at the “Theatre National de Nice,” accompanied by Mrs. Defrasne, Mrs. McGrath, Mrs. Scales, and Mr. Mitcham.

Arthur Miller’s modern American tragedy Death of a Salesman (1949) delineates the last twenty-four hours of a 60 year-old man still seeking for a distorted version of the American dream. Indeed, as soon as the curtain rises, the stage director promptly conveys the image of an exhausted man coming back to his little house after a tiresome journey. By then, the audience hears the flute music which captures the overall essence of the play and catches sight of the house made of different black metallic structures creating a three-dimensional image and ultimately attributing a sense of confinement to it. The set remains simple yet loyal to the original version: with the bed, the broken fridge and the table in the kitchen. Willy strikes us as a man passionately drowned in the realm of his illusions and the past. For instance, the shift between reality and fantasy is materialized by the contrast of light and darkness that progresses from a faint light to a powerful orange autumnal color. Moreover, the house structure does not appear in Willy’s fantasies and flashbacks in order to communicate this sense of freedom to the audience. Moving on to the other characters, Biff is truly the one who stood out, as a brutal and vehemently challenging character for Willy who was better captured in the play than in other film versions seen in class. This was the case especially in the scene when Biff declares to his father that he is going to speak to Bill Oliver which subsequently creates a tension between Willy who boasts about his false principles about being “well liked”, and Biff who is still upset about his father’s affair. Therefore, family struggles and frustrations are omnipresent in this production of Death of A Salesman, and help build the audience’s patience or sympathy for the protagonist. Among other important characters are the mistress who embodies temptation and superficial love, and Ben, Willy’s deceased brother, who represent hope and “immediate success” along with immoral actions. Unfortunately, the most shocking thing about the production was the choice of removing the requiem and Linda’s final soliloquy, which seemed incomprehensible based on our study of the play in class!

Nevertheless, I personally believed that the French version of the play remained loyal to the original text and extremely thought-provoking, and brought to light the true essence of a dysfunctional family which the audience could all identify to in some way.

Claire Davis TS6

Death of a Salesman: Claudia Stavisky’s version at the TNN

There are very few contemporary works which, although deeply rooted in the reality of a country and a time, may claim to universality. Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller is one of those few. Of those who left an indelible mark on a century, of those who extend from a societal peculiarity to achieve the sublime to talk to each of us, of those who disturb by their accuracy and their keen eye on the world.

Played in 1949 and crowned the legendary Pulitzer Prize, Death of a Salesman bones the American dream and its values of material success. At a time of angry neo-liberalism, factory closures and the all-new-smartphone, it is impossible not to hear echoes of the play, more relevant than ever.

After Pirandello, Thomas Bernhard, and Schimmelpfennig, Claudia Stavisky, director of the Celestin Theater in Lyon continues to work around disruption and the upheaval of fate. Her staging is designed to further explore the sensitivity of the work and its pathetic characters. Based on a new translation, more nervous, more direct, Claudia Stavisky highlights a little more our proximity to this fallen hero, patriarch prisoner of his destroyed dreams. Willy Loman is no longer the distant witness to the post World War II America. He is our father, our brother. Death of a Salesman is a modern fable, grandiose with gross and desperate power. Continued....

Claudia Stavisky has assembled a fine cast: François Marthouret in the role of Willy dominates the entire play with his energy and his presence, makes with subtlety a broken character, a multi-faceted man who strives to escape a truth he refuses, a truth that hurts, that kills. Through Willy Loman, Marthouret becomes Oedipus and Lear, he is the heart of the tragic essence of the play. Without any additional effects and with the greatest simplicity appears the agonizing stripping of a man. The character of Willy is constantly going, with the greatest mastery, from despondency to hope. The door opens to Willy's heart, exposing denial, blindness, excitement and pain, all jostling in an ocean of despair.

Hélène Alexandridis is portrayed as a dignified wife bound to repair the lies of the father to the son, those of the son to the father, to hold together the last foundations of the family. Biff and Happy are interpreted by Matthew Sampeur -very fair- and Alexander Zambeaux, with an impressive presence. The whole becomes a beautiful encounter between Claudia Stavisky and Arthur Miller.

On the vast gray scene, whose backdrop mimics the wall of a prison, there are no accessories except a white fridge. The performance, in such a layout, gains deepness up to when the fugitive demon of the happy days comes to haunt Willy. However, there is a few problems with the scenography, not really suited for this play which operates on a shrinking and later disappearing universe, and on conflicts that erupt in a tightly closed space where the unspoken rules . Yet, the scene is huge. Perhaps the most significant peculiarity that engenders such immensity is that it flirts with the fly system, creating a particularly vertiginous set. This could be useful for all dreamlike scenes, but only Willy proceeds in this extrapolation of his inner world. Furthermore, it would probably have been particularly relevant and effective to reduce the frame to smaller proportions, in order to observe with a magnifying glass this chronicle of a foretold death, to deploy a new sense of power and inevitability to this disaster.

Death of a Salesman is a mythical tragedy and an indisputable masterpiece. There is undeniably a return to the primitive images of this great theater that is both powerful and popular. There is also something so universal, perhaps even more significant today, in what the play tells and how it tells it, that each of us is touched profoundly. Each spectator is, in one way or another, returned to his own story.

Maxime Vidal, Première

END

A big thanks to all those who have participated in and translated for this issue of the Newsletter
The Newsletter Team