



Newsletter April 2010

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Letter from the Head

Happy Spring time!

Spring is, of course, symbol of renewal and rebirth. Hopefully the flu, the "grippe" has come to an end!

However, it is perhaps appropriate to return to the topic of absences and replacements, a subject currently in the press, and one which has taken a great deal of my time, particularly this year. Teachers do get sick. Sometimes their children get sick. And this year the grippe led doctors to take a precautionary stand: teachers showing signs of sickness were asked to stay home for a whole week! Teachers also participate in days of professional development as it is important that we keep abreast of the latest teaching methods and ideas in the world of education.

I have tried my best to find replacement teachers for, what seems to me to be, an extraordinary number of absences so far this year. I have asked our ASEICA teachers to take on extra lessons. We have also turned to some of our past or retired teachers and employed local younger ones available. Our policy is that replacing teachers should be fully qualified: Anglophone, home diplomas, experienced. I have covered some of these classes myself as has Kevin Jackson, my successor next school year. However, when three or four teachers are absent the same day, which has happened, replacing them all is quite a challenge. I fully understand your frustration but ask for your comprehension.

On another more positive note, we are quite pleased that our teachers have been able to initiate and organize so many activities, with a number of new ones.

The yearbook is advancing under the guidance of Mrs Karen Jones and we do expect it to be distributed during the month of May, before the Terminales are off to their Bac exams.

A group of students from Eganaude had a successful trip to San Francisco in an exchange with the French Lycée, La Perouse, in that city. We are awaiting the arrival of the students from San Francisco later this Spring. This trip was organized with Kate Collord and Sean Williams.

Another group of students from Niki de St Phalle will shortly be going to Indianapolis in an exchange with the International School of Indianapolis. They will be accompanied by Michelle Simpson and Perri Spitz. The students from Indianapolis visited here last month.

Some students from Eganaude and Niki de St Phalle will be visiting Dublin for a long weekend in May, chaperoned by Karen Jones and Michele Bigourden, whilst others from Eganaude will be visiting Cambridge this spring accompanied by Kate Collord.

The MUN group had an enriching experience at The Hague and Mr Gallagher has arranged for CIV Lycée students to participate at a second Model United Nations international meeting of students in Paris at the UNESCO building next year. This will give more young people the opportunity to participate in an activity which encourages orderly debate on world issues.

Rob Gallagher also organized an interschool debate with our lycée students going to the International School of Nice on March 17. They debated with students from ISN and the International School of Monaco.

Groups from the CIV and Niki de St Phalle had the opportunity to see *King Arthur* in Nice on Monday, March 8th arranged by Karen Jones and Liz Weatherly.

Katherine McGrath organized the yearly Talent show which went on for three evenings: March 15, 16 and 17 in the Agora cinema. The students adore listening to and watching their fellow students displaying their various talents.



Sean Williams organized our participation in a local theatre festival which took place at the Mougins School. I am told that our students were admired for their good performance.

Lastly, Kristi Defrasne recently participated in an ISTA (International School Theatre Association) with the project of taking primary children of the upper school from both Trois Collines and Sartoux, one group to Cornwall, England, and the other to Copenhagen, Denmark.

Articles on some of these activities can be found in this newsletter.

Phyllis Brante

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University Guidance: It's Not Too Early!

With many of the Terminale students with university or post-lycée plans already set, and with a substantial number of 1^{ère} students beginning the process of planning for their post baccalaureate futures, the Pedagogical Directors and the Head of Guidance turned their attention towards the students in 2^{nde} to discuss educational opportunities beyond the lycée.

On the afternoon of March 6, 2010, the 2^{nde} students were invited to a presentation about university choices and guidance services given by the ASEICA Pedagogical Directors, Phyllis Brante and Kevin Jackson, and the Head of Guidance, Lesley Scales. Parents were invited to a separate presentation in the evening.

The purpose of the presentation was threefold. On the one hand, it was to inform students and parents of the important choices that lie ahead regarding higher education and life after the CIV. Also, the presentation served to let students and parents know about the guidance services available to ASEICA families throughout the university application process, a process that at times can be daunting for those unfamiliar with it. The final goal of the talk was to get students and their parents thinking now about the decisions they will need to be taking some 18 months from now. The autumn of 2011 looks a long way off right now, but for the Class of 2012, the university application season is just around the corner!

Ms. Brante began the afternoon session by welcoming students and speaking about the importance of continuing their hard work in the Anglophone Section, work which will expand the students' post-lycée educational choices. She stressed the fact that, although many of the students were already indeed bilingual, it is the work done in 1^{ère} and Terminale that gives students the knowledge, skill set and behaviour necessary to meet the demands of higher education in an English-speaking environment.

Ms. Scales followed with a lengthy discussion about university guidance services offered to ASEICA students, statistics of where our students go to pursue university education, and procedures and deadlines that students need to respect. Mr. Jackson closed the afternoon session with a short talk stressing the need for students to begin thinking immediately about their future plans for higher education studies.

As for the students, they were attentive, focused and engaged, and they all demonstrated incredible maturity throughout the presentation. This was greatly appreciated by the presenters, as it is not always easy to assemble some 200 teenagers in one place and give a talk without the aid of a microphone!

In the evening, it was the parents' turn. Also in attendance with Ms. Brante, Ms. Scales and Mr. Jackson was Trichette Roy. Ms. Roy works with Ms. Scales to help meet the ever increasing demand for university guidance services for ASEICA students.

The evening presentation pretty much followed the afternoon sessions given to students with two notable exceptions. In her evening presentation to parents, Ms. Scales discussed some of the financial aspects of applying to and attending university. In his talk, Mr. Jackson gave a quick overview of the OIB itself and gave a somewhat detailed talk about the importance of the high OIB exam coefficients assigned to the subjects taught by the section (English Language and Literature, and History and Geography).

The evening closed with an informative question-answer session between parents and the Pedagogical Directors and the Guidance Counselors.

For those parents who could not attend the evening session, a copy of the presentations will soon be available on the www.aseica.org website.

Kevin Jackson

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Letter from the Board

Spring has arrived: season of registrations, entry tests, exam preparations and much, much more. It is an intense period when a lot is expected of our students, directors, teachers and administration team.

When it comes to registration if you follow the simple instructions you receive in the post, you are making everybody's work easier. Smooth registration allows more time to support other projects such as exchanges or extra curricular activities. If you have questions about registration, please contact us as early as possible.

You will notice that we are asking you to add information about the company you work for. Can you take the time to include it? Our international section is part of the attraction for companies to be in Sophia Antipolis and in the region. When we organise large events, like the International sections congress last year, and we discuss with local, regional and national decision makers to further develop the international sections, we need this information. The Board has been busy on several fronts: new convention with the Mairie of Mougins; salary negotiations; international exchanges support; communications; social activities.

Last month, we held a collège information evening attended by the Proviseur, some 100 parents and many teachers. In early March, we were fortunate to have good weather for the annual Walkathon which was well-attended. And, of course, International Day was a great success. These are just some of the many occasions for you to meet and exchange with parents, teachers and directors in a convivial atmosphere.

Your association is full of energy, driven by the hard work of its directors, staff and of its board and committee members, all volunteers. If you want to take a more active role, send us an email and join our Board recruitment meeting in the Aseica office on April 26 at 12.15.

Cheers,

Cathy Ducker
board@aseica.org

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They Left their Hearts in San Francisco!

"San Francisco's great! I loved this trip because I met so many nice people. That was one of the best trips of my life!" Kim Dao Phan (a student in 4th6 at L'Eganaude)

From February 3rd to February 14th, twenty 4^{ème} students from the international section at the Collège de l'Eganaude participated in an exchange with the Lycée Perouse in San Francisco. The students, chaperoned by ASEICA teachers Sean Williams and Kate Collord, stayed with their host families in the evenings and on the weekend while attending school and a wide range of planned activities during the day.

The Lycée Perouse is a small private school serving students from kindergarten through twelfth grade (Terminale). It is located in an attractive Spanish mission-style building on a ridge within walking distance of the Golden Gate Park and the Pacific Ocean. It is contracted by Education Nationale to follow the French program, and its Terminale students take the Bac and acquire a French high school diploma. Much like at the CIV, classes are offered in French and English, and the students are naturally bilingual in both languages. The Eganaude students reported very much enjoying their time at the Lycée Perouse, where they received a warm welcome and every effort was made to integrate them in all aspects of school life.



In addition, the students from Eganau de visited many sites in San Francisco and the surrounding area. With Mr. Williams and Ms Collord, they strolled across the Golden Gate Bridge; took a ferry to Alcatraz Island where they were treated to a stirring audioguide tour of the infamous prison; saw recuperating sea lions and seals at the Marine Mammal Center; had a dimsum lunch in Chinatown and a tour of a Chinese temple and climbed Telegraph Hill among blooming magnolia trees and flocks of wild green parrots. When not in school or visiting the city, the students were with their host families, where in many cases they formed close bonds with the children of their age from the lycée.

The last night of the trip was spent at the Fort Mason youth hostel, where the students worked under supervision to make the evening meal, and where they said their (sometimes tearful) goodbyes to San Francisco. Now they are anxiously waiting to welcome their new friends from the Lycée Perouse, who will come to the Côte d'Azur for ten days in late May.

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International Day

Once again, International Day was a huge success. Parents, students and teachers from all 4 international sections (English, German, Italian and Spanish) met on Saturday 27 March at the Agora in the CIV to raise funds for charity. The theme this year was "Peace in our World".

The opening ceremony was presided by M Brulant, Head of the CIV who was accompanied by Mrs Avery Glize-Kane, representing the US Consulate in Nice and Mr. Samir Basta, ex-Unicef Director.

Stands offering a range of food and drinks from all over the world (Mexican, American, Dutch, Australian, English, Asian and German) were well attended.



Other stands offered second hand books, face painting and even golf putting.

The public enthusiastically applauded the shows bringing dances of many styles: flamenco, belly dancing, ballet.



Samir Basta, from the UN, gave a lecture on peace at the CIV theatre.

The 3800 EUR collected will be divided amongst various charities including Amnesty International, The Red Cross, Fata Turkana. 40% of the proceeds will also go towards funding the MUN's annual trip to The Hague.

A big thank you to all parents, teachers and students who contributed by organising the event, preparing food, holding a stand, or cleaning up afterwards!

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The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) 2010

Amazing, unforgettable, unique! Such words could perfectly describe this year's trip to the prestigious Hague International Model United Nations conference (THIMUN) from the 23rd to 31st January. Working with 3,500 students from around the globe, we were honoured to represent Sweden while experiencing the decision making process of the United Nations.

Working on various committees and commissions such as ensuring education for all to combating human trafficking, we gained a multilateral, truly international view of world issues while developing our public speaking and refining our written and oral skills. At the same time we all enjoyed making new friends, as well as our day discovering the cultural offerings of Amsterdam.



Overall THIMUN confirmed that we are all world citizens, sharing the same planet with its delights and challenges, despite our different national origins. None of us will ever forget this experience and we would like to thank Mr. Gallagher, our MUN Director and Head of Humanities, for making this possible.

Cedric Ducoulombier, 1ère MUN student

Inter schools MUN on the Côte D'Azur

On Wednesday 17th. March there was an interschool MUN debate involving the International School of Nice, The International School of Monaco and the CIV.

Around 15 students represented each school. The debate was on '**Enabling the media to act as a vehicle for democratic information**'. These three schools all have considerable experience in The Hague conference so the debate was informed and lively.

I am planning on continuing these debates next year and eventually recruiting more schools into the group. Watch this space...

Rob Gallagher

Collège debate International Day, March 27th.

Following many years of successful MUN debates during International Day, Mr. Scriven's collège MUN group presented and debated a resolution on the theme of peace. The debate was, as usual, open to the public.

Rob Gallagher

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News from the Guidance Office

We are all excited by the university offers coming in thick and fast now! 9 students have already had acceptances for McGill; we have offers from Georgetown, Philadelphia, Northeastern and Florida Institute of Technology in the US; students have been accepted at Erasmus in the Netherlands and Bocconi in Italy; and from the UK we have conditional offers from Aberystwyth, Bangor, Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Brunel, Cambridge, City, Edinburgh, Essex, Greenwich, Imperial, Kent, Lancaster, Leeds, Manchester, Royal Holloway, St Andrews, Sussex, Warwick and York.

You may be interested to know the wide range of subjects that students are applying for this year:

Architecture, Social Anthropology, Politics, Economics, International Relations, Law, Maths, Physics, Psychology, Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Natural Sciences, Biology, Medicine, Fashion Management, International Business and Management, Marketing, Business and Spanish, Modern History and Politics, Zoology, Art History, Photography, Real Estate, Social Policy, Sociology, and Chemistry with Management. It's a great reflection on the value of the OIB that students can go from our school to study such a wealth of different subjects in such a plethora of institutions!

If a student has received all 5 responses from the UK and has been rejected or wishes to reject all 5, they now have the opportunity to select one more place through UCAS Extra: see me if this is the case. And if they do not attain enough points at the "bac" for their first or second choice, they have another chance to re-apply on August 19, so all is not lost if they act fast. See me about this on results day.

A reminder: all students who have applied to universities abroad need to bring me their second and final bulletins from this year as soon as they become available, for sending on to universities. I also need their "relevé des notes du bac" on results day, as this information must be submitted either electronically or by post. Please note this is not an automatic process: students must come either personally or by proxy to give me the documents to send, otherwise they could lose their places!

Many Premières are already well ahead with choosing universities and courses for 2011 entry.

This is important, as they may also need to be practising for particular tests; gathering material for portfolios or fixing up work experience for certain courses. As always, if unsure, see me!

And finally, now that I have given a presentation to students and parents of Secondes, it is their turn to start making appointments in the guidance office. Good luck to all!

Lesley Scales
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Tel: 04 97 23 92 35

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Theatre Festival

The first annual Collège Theatre Festival took place on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Mougins School. The activities began at 8:30 am and finished at 6:30 pm. Students from ASEICA partner schools (the CIV, L'Eganaude and Niki de St. Phalle) participated alongside students from the International School of Nice, Mougins School and the International School of Monaco.

Each school did a performance:

- The International School of Nice presented an extract from "Across the Barricades"
- The Mougins School performed a play called "Lucky Bag"
- The International School of Monaco performed an extract from "Oh, What a Lovely War"
- ASEICA students presented a shortened version of "Romeo and Juliet"

There were four different workshops:

- Style, Clarity, Impact which involved speaking clearly while acting a "Midsummer Night's Dream" by Shakespeare.
- Dance to Three Words by Cheryl Cole, where we had to dance hip-hop in pairs.
- Exploring the Concept of Dominance/Subservience where we used cards numbered from 2 to 10 (2 for subservience until 10 for dominance).
- Voice work and singing *Mercy, Glee* by DUFFY. For the singing, we were separated into three groups: a group of boys, a group of girls and a group of background singers.

Before starting the workshops, we were divided into four groups: A, B, C, D.

When we had finished all of the workshops, all 80 students went to the Gymnasium to perform the dance that we had prepared, and then we all sang together.

Thanks to our teacher, Mr. Williams, for making us rehearse the play and giving us the opportunity to enjoy this experience.

Olivia (5e CIV) and Guillaume (5e L'Eganaude)

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Happenings at Collège Niki de Saint Phalle

Trip to King Arthur

On Monday March 8th all the 5èmes went to Nice to see an English performance of 'King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table'. The students were accompanied by Mrs Weatherly, Mrs Spitz, Mrs Macleod and Mrs Vidal. The students enjoyed the performance which was full of songs and laughs. 5èmes will be studying the tales of King Arthur and looking at some of his quests and the play was an educational and enjoyable start to their studies.



Carnival

On a wet and dull afternoon on the 5th of February much fun was had at Niki as it was Carnival day. There was lots of colour, music and dancing as the dressed up students paraded around the hall and were judged by a panel of staff. After heated deliberation, three winners for each age group were announced and each was awarded a 15€ FNAC voucher. There were many fantastic and creative costumes and many members of staff joined in the carnival atmosphere in hilarious costumes. All the Vie Scolaire staff wore red wigs and there were many afros to be seen!



Guide dogs

On Monday 1 March the guide visited Niki and drummed up support for the Walkathon. Two dogs came to the school, an experienced guide dog and a 5 month old puppy that will start her training soon. There was a demonstration on guide dogs leading blind people and alerting them to obstacles. The visit was very well received by the students and the dogs bore well to all the attention!

3ème project

The 3èmes have seen a change to their English timetables this term with a project focussing on oral and written skills. All students from the different levels have been mixed up and then split into three teaching groups. For two hours each week during five weeks these groups are working on one of three projects.

The students with Mr Wise are working on a creative writing project looking at what elements make a good short story and then writing their own. Mrs Jones' group is researching various issues such as the death penalty, graffiti and obesity. In Mrs Weatherly's class, the students are brushing up on their persuasive language skills and working on a project called "The Wolves' Lair" based on the TV programme "The Dragons' Den".

The aim of this project is for students to benefit from each others' skills whatever their levels and also to prepare them for the mixed ability classes in seconde. They will be focussing on their accuracy in written and spoken English, good teamwork skills and clear presentation of their ideas/findings ... and hopefully also enjoying the freedom of project work and working with different people.

Many thanks to the teachers and parents who have made the trips, visits and projects possible.

Elizabeth Weatherly, Collège Coordinator - Niki De Saint Phalle

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News from Primary

News from the schools:

Sartoux

Children are involved in their International Primary Curriculum (IPC) projects. The CE2's are currently working on an IPC project about water called 'clean water dirty water'. This links to the French National Curriculum requirements. Among many topics, the children have been learning about the "water cycle" this included the designing and making of a Water cycle box.

In science investigations they have been answering the question: "How can I tell the difference between dirty water and clean water?"

Trois Collines

On Friday 12th March the school held its annual Carnival. Much fun had by our children, parents and teachers.



Walkathon

In both schools most of our pupils enjoyed a presentation by the Guide Dog Association. Some of the children have written about the visit and their feelings:

Alexander Pearch from CM1 wrote: "I feel sorry for blind people. It was very nice of him to come all this way to see us. If I was blind I would be scared and unhappy all my life. I wouldn't be able to play tennis, football, ping pong, basket ball, go skiing and swim. IMAGINE!"

Ella Arrar from CM1 wrote: "I felt very happy that day when I learnt that inventions could help blind people And the way Gérard talked to us was heart-warming. I knew there would still be hope for blind people."



Book Clubs

With help from two parents: Christine Durand and Chandra Sethi, we offered Baker Books Club this month . Thanks to all of you who ordered books. The approximate total value of books ordered was 1,700 Euros.

Usborne Book club

We will be offering Usborne books during the Summer Term.

Sue Bateman, ASEICA Primary Coordinator

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« SEVENS ACADEMY »: New Rugby Programme at the CIV

A new academic programme enabling boys and girls to practice Rugby Sevens at a high level while working towards the OIB or the French baccalaureate; will open at the CIV for seconde students as of September 2010.

Applications should be sent to the school by 14 June 2010. If you are interested, please submit:

- Details of schooling and school reports covering the last school year.
- Examples of recent sport achievements and activities (profile of sport performance, different posts: local leagues, regional or national ones)
- Covering letter in support of the candidateship

The programme will be run in close partnership with IRB Sevens, FIRA-AER European Sevens, FFR and the French Riviera and local department Committees.

Two training periods a week will be offered: Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. Plus one with the rugby league of the school every Wednesday from 1.30 to 4.3 p.m.

The CIV has Boarding facilities open all year around (week-ends and holidays included, except for Christmas). Full board starts at 700 Euros a month for a double room. For more info, see: <http://www.civfrance.com>

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Walkathon 2010

The sun was shining for Walkathon on March 6th. Everyone enjoyed a great day out, for a very good cause! This traditional event brought people together giving a wonderful sense of belonging and community to everyone, young and old-er!

Students from all schools were present, international sections or otherwise, lots of teachers and parents supported the walk too. Even the Lycée Proviseur Adjointe, Mme Enée, joined the sporty walk! It was great to see the students' enthusiasm to beat their record from last year. We saw younger kids walking their dogs, parents taking their family and friends out for a jog. Mr Cornu from Eganaude also took part in the walkathon. Refreshments were much appreciated and were so popular that I heard people talking of having a full barbecue next year. From desk 3 I think Rebecca and I even heard some bag pipes encouraging the walkers!

A big thank you to the volunteers who efficiently organised this day and to everyone who took part in it this year. Proceeds will go to the Ecole Méditerranéenne de Chiens Guides d'Aveugles in Biot. As this issue closes, about 6000 EUR had been collected.

Cathy Ducker

Summer Camps

A Primary/Collège/Lycée Parents' afternoon tea took place on 1 April 2010, from 3 pm until 6.30 pm, at the home of Camilla Dufour, to discuss Summer Activities, Camps and other options for our children. Representatives from Camp Experts joined us and were available to answer questions.

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Calendar

April

3 to 19: Spring Holidays

Monday 26: 12.15pm ASEICA Board meeting for volunteers

May

Tuesday 11: Primary Theatre Show, CP/CE1, Trois Collines; CP, CE1, CE2 Sartoux

Tuesday 18: Primary Theatre Show, CE2/CM1, CM1/CM2 Trois Collines; CM1 CM2 Sartoux

Yearbook distribution

June

Tuesday 1: Collège Show for 6ème and 5èmes

Thursday 3: Collège Show for 4ème and 3èmes

Monday 14: Last day for applications for Rugby Academy

Thursday 17: Bac starts

July

Friday 2: Official start to Summer Holidays

Wednesday 7: Bac results published