



NEWSLETTER

November 2007

Important Dates

- November 19** Curriculum Information Meeting for Collège/Lycée parents at CIV
- December 4** Primary Christmas Party
- December 11** Curriculum Information Meeting for Primary Parents
- December 20** CIV Brevet Ceremony – Diplomas presented by Mr Brulant, the Proviseur

Head's Report

Although we are several weeks into the new school year I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all. The population in our bilingual program is at a record high: 191 children in the Primary program, 740 young people in collège, and 319 in the lycée.

We have six new teachers with us: Jonathan Scriven who comes from Washington D.C., is teaching 2nde English and history at all levels at the CIV and Eganaude. Trichette Roy from California (who has lived in France for one year already) is teaching at the Sartoux Primary school. Christine Vanneval from Vancouver, Canada is teaching in the Trois Collines primary school. Anna Edgar, of British nationality, is teaching History and English at the CIV and Niki de St Phalle. Jill Jeangeorges and Emily Cluer, both British, are teaching History at Eganaude and at the CIV.

For those of you who are new to the program I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the structure of the education in the international section in primary and secondary. In both cases your child is studying the official French national program taught throughout France. In primary, the official program is taught half the time in English and half the time in French. The only part of the program which is not defined by the French authorities is the English language itself. Here, the national programs of the home country inspire the teachers. In collège and lycée, your child is studying history/geography in English and works of literature from different Anglophone cultures, as well as, occasionally, works from other cultures taught of course, in English. There is a strong emphasis on oral participation and writing skills. The teaching methods are culturally influenced which is one of the enriching aspects of the program.

I would also like to explain briefly the learning progression in the English secondary classes. As you probably know, children follow the program in three collèges, Niki de St Phalle, Eganaude, and the Collège International de Valbonne (CIV). All these collège classes are taught by a team of very experienced teachers who work together and who are in constant communication with each other. The texts and works used for study in these classes are chosen and coordinated collectively.

Children who enter the program in 6^{eme} are at varying levels of acquired knowledge of language and culture. Hence, in 6^{eme} the children are streamed into three groups at Eganaude and Niki de St Phalle and five groups in the CIV. Students are given common tests throughout each year to confirm that all are working on the same level and towards the same goals. As in the beginning of the program there are significant disparities in the levels, two different tests are created, one for those who are basically learning the language, and one for those whose level of language is high. As the children move up in the system and the students' knowledge increases, the groups begin to merge. When the students finish the international Troisième classes in one of the three collèges mentioned above, they all come automatically to the CIV for the international class of Seconde. By the time the students are in 2nde most are able to work at the same level. Today, two of the five English classes in Seconde follow the same program as the other Secondes but have two extra hours of reinforcement of language for those students in need. Once in Première, all the classes study the same works at the same rhythm and all essays are coordinated so that all are tested on the same day, on the same subject. This practice continues in Terminale.

The results of the Baccalaureate last June reassured the teaching staff once again that our students are working at, not just an appropriate level, but, a challenging one. Out of 66 students, there were 21 "Mention Très Bien," 26 "Mention Bien," 14 "Mention Assez Bien," 5 "Admis," and no fails!!

For those parents who have children in Terminale this year and are considering sending your children abroad, this is the time to make an appointment with Lesley Scales, our guidance counsellor.

If parents have any questions concerning the curriculum or their children's progression they should not hesitate to contact the teacher or myself.

Wishing you all a good academic year for your children,

Phyllis Brante, Head of the Anglophone Section

Destinations of OIB Class of 2007

Congratulations to the OIB Class of 2007!

100% students successfully obtained the Baccalauréat and are now continuing, or planning to continue, their studies in higher education.

About 32% of the class were accepted into selective and demanding CPGE programmes, the Classes Préparatoires aux Grandes Ecoles:

- 5 in CPGE Sciences Economiques et Sociales / HEC in Nice or the CIV
- 8 in CPGE Scientifiques: PCSI, BCPST or Math Sup in the CIV, Nice, Paris or Aix en Provence
- 2 in CPGE Littéraires in Paris or Toulon
- 5 in CPGE Sciences Po in Paris or Aix en Provence
- 1 in Polytech Orléans, Ecole d'Ingénieurs

About 17% have entered French universities in Nice, Toulouse or Paris

- 3 Faculté de Médecine, Nice or Paris
- 5 Faculté de Sciences, Nice or Toulouse
- 2 Faculté de Droit, Nice or Aix en Provence
- 1 Faculté de Lettres, Sorbonne, Paris

Another 9% are studying in other French schools:

- 2 at IUT Nice
- 1 at ESRA Nice
- 3 at EAI Tech in Sophia Antipolis

About 36% have places at high ranking universities abroad:

8 to McGill, Canada for Biology, Physics, Environmental Science, Business
(1 student attained a Major Scholarship for McGill)

14 to the UK:

- Bristol, Veterinary Science
- Cambridge, Selwyn College, Modern and Medieval Languages
- East Anglia, English Language and Literature
- Edinburgh, Maths
- Exeter, European Law
- Imperial College London, Aeronautical Engineering
- Leicester, Dual Maîtrise in French and English Law
- Loughborough, Retail Management
- Nottingham, History and Politics
- SOAS University of London, Economics and Development Studies
- St Andrews, Scotland, Marine Biology
- St Andrews, Scotland, International Relations
- University College London, English Language and Literature
- Warwick, Engineering

- 1 to Pisa, Italy for Veterinary Science
- 1 to Papeete-Tahiti, Polynesia for History/Geography

And of the remaining 8%:

- 2 with UK university places are re-applying for Oxford or Cambridge in 2008
- 1 has a deferred place for East Anglia University in 2008 after Jeunesse-Lumière this year
- 1 is going to Concordia, Canada in the winter semester of 2008 for Liberal Arts
- 1 is taking a Gap year before applying to Canadian universities for 2008

Mrs Scales
Head of University Guidance
lscales@aseica.org

Reading in English

Books and learning English go hand in hand in the ASEICA English program. Reading good stories and plays written by acclaimed English language authors enables your children and our students to learn about themselves and human nature in general through the worlds of others. Books also bring other people and cultures closer, challenging students' thinking as they grow and become more familiar with the unfamiliar.

At the same time, the students are being given the language necessary to express orally and to write about these ideas and feelings. Entry level English learners, of course, need some time to acquire this skill. These students will be given the language skills and the time to be able to appreciate good books.

As you are well aware of by now, your child has been asked by his classroom teacher to purchase a set list of books, unless of course he is a beginning learner of English. Please support us in encouraging your children to read. Get excited with your younger ones as you look for the books and help the older ones find and purchase theirs. Help them begin building their own English language library. Your support and encouragement will make all the difference.

Don't hesitate to ask your child's English teacher any questions concerning books; they are a key to your child's success with learning the language.

From the English teachers.

Drama Department Dracula at the CIV

Our various Theatre courses are up and running. Information is already on the website, outlining the details. In primary, the Theatre teachers are: Mrs Defrasne in Les Trois Collines and Ms McGrath in Haut Sartoux. The primary shows will probably take place in May, on two different dates to be confirmed.

Hayley Haas and Kirsty Yuill are teaching Wednesday afternoon classes at the CIV to primary age, non-native English speakers, so please see website publicity if you wish to know more about this. You may want to pass the information to your family, friends, neighbours or colleagues.

Hayley and Kirsty are also teaching several evening classes for collège age students. These are also held at the CIV. The end of year collège performances will likely be early June.

Lycée students will be putting on a production of *Dracula* at the CIV, probably in March. We hope people won't be too afraid to attend! Auditions are currently being held for this play.

Parents are needed to help with all aspects of production: costumes, tech crew, advertising, refreshments and make-up. Please contact kmcgrath@aseica.org or newsletter@aseica.org. Special thanks to the brilliant group of volunteers who helped us with *Pygmalion* last summer!

Mrs McGrath

MUN News

Both our MUN (Model United Nations) debate clubs in collège and lycée are off to an impressive start, with more students than ever participating. Indeed, in lycée alone there were over 120 students who were interested in participating in the activity but, due to timetable constraints, only 40 to 50 are able to come to our Wednesday afternoon sessions. It is also encouraging that this year students from Niki St. Phalle and Eganaude will be attending our Thursday debates for collège students.

Topics we have already debated include the wearing of religious symbols in schools, Iran's nuclear program, climate change and the Darfur crisis. The standard of debate has been high, and I am sure it will be even higher by the end of the year as students become more familiar with debating procedures, acquire more knowledge and understanding of the challenges the modern world and grow in self confidence.

We do not yet know which country our school will represent at this year's International Model United Nations conference in The Hague, but it is sure that another dynamic, motivated and extremely effective delegation will emerge from this year's group of students.

Rob Gallagher, MUN Coordinator

Student Exchanges

ASEICA is always looking for new possibilities of implementing exchanges between our students and schools abroad. A new opportunity for exchanges is being developed with Telopea Park School in Canberra, Australia. Contacts have been very positive and teams from ASEICA and Telopea School are studying term dates and other details to finalize the plans. Thanks to Bernard Garnier, board member who provided the contacts and has been actively working on the project.

Office News

ASEICA is happy to welcome Véronique Moller, our new Director of Admin and Finance. Véronique has worked for over 10 years in the same capacity in other companies in Sophia Antipolis. She is fully bilingual and enthusiastic about education in general and ASEICA's mission in particular, as she has two daughters in the international section.

Board news

The ASEICA Board started the school year well. The beginning of the school year was marked by the hiring of the new Finance & Admin Director, Veronique Moller; the arrival of new associates and the departure of Tamara Hennings and Karen Jones from the Board. Tamara who worked mainly on the communications committee has now relocated to USA and hopes to encourage exchanges between ASEICA students and her son's new school, starting with email correspondence. Karen Jones is leaving the Board to support ASEICA further by teaching in collège and lycée. Karen was a very committed and enthusiastic Board Secretary last year and the leader of the communications committee, bringing to life our website and a wonderful newsletter. Thank you very much Karen and all the best for your future projects!

As we enter November we are now working with two new associates: Jackie Partarrieu who is leading the communications committee and Sabine Owens who supports the intersections and the financial committees. Several other parents have started to actively participate in our work: Adriene Cerani, Marc Padovani, Guy Sepahi. Yves Guglielmi, Laurent Steyaert, Coline Riviere, Marie-José Tyan. We are helping them to learn the 'ropes', and hope they will enjoy their learning experience.

We have many projects on the line as well as a growing organisation to manage. These are positive and exciting times. **We hope you will come and join us too!**

2007-2008 Board: Cathy Ducker: President, Bernard Garnier: Vice-President, Mike Laing: Treasurer, Corine Fortunato-Jackson: Secretary, Leanne Bourguignon, Gilda Camuto, Sarah De Quant, Valerie Perez-Binza. Associate members: Sabine Owens and Jackie Partarrieu.

You can contact us at board@aseica.org

FDEI Congress

The FDEI, *Fondation pour le développement de l'enseignement international* held a congress on September 18 in Paris. Representatives of all stakeholders from the international sections across France attended: international sections associations, headteachers, members of the Education Nationale and of 14 embassies of countries participating in the project. Together, they discussed ways to promote international sections and the OIB (Option Internationale du Baccalauréat) in France and elsewhere. For the ASEICA, Phyllis Brante and Cathy Ducker attended. Ministry officials confirmed that there are 216 international sections in the country, catering to around 20,000 students from primary school to Terminale. These sections teach 12 languages and prepare their students to take the OIB, which is the classical French Baccalaureat with the addition of 2 specific exams on the literature and history/geography of the chosen language.

The FDEI is currently lobbying so that European countries will officially recognize the OIB. Students having experienced education in an OIB section should have a diploma equivalent to the French "licence" in the language they have studied, explained Francois Xavier d'Aligny, President of the FDEI.

The 14 countries which work with the OIB in France are Germany, Denmark, Spain, the USA, the UK, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, and Sweden. China is currently starting its participation in the program.

More info on: www.fdei.com.

Social Committee

International Sections Picnic

Thankfully the sun was shining on Sunday October 14 allowing families from all four international sections of the CIV, Niki de Saint Phalle and Eganaude collèges and from the two Primary schools: Sartoux and Les Trois Collines to gather at the Parc Départemental de l'Etang in Mougins for a day of fun and games.

Collège and Lycée Social Committee

A coffee morning was held on Monday the 22nd of October at the home of Jalila Benmiloud, a CIV parent. More than 30 parents, representing each of the three collèges and the Lycée International were present. Phyllis Brante spoke to parents about the ASEICA programs, with a focus on answering parent questions about the OIB program.

Parents who would like to participate in this committee, which organises social events for parents of students in the collège and lycée programs, are invited to contact: ninistrabridgepellet@wanadoo.fr or camilla.dufour@wanadoo.fr.

International Primary Social Committee

IPSC began the year with the traditional Welcome Coffee Morning, hosted this year by Nini Pellet. Phyllis Brante and Sue Bateman welcomed new parents and presented an overview of activities and programs at the primary level.

On October 23rd, the first Parent-Teacher lunch was held in the home of Christine Scardigli. Parents and teachers from both Sartoux and Les Trois Collines were able to socialize and enjoy a delicious lunch outdoors. The parent-teacher lunches provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to get to know their child's teachers as well as other parents within the primary program.

Families from Sartoux will soon receive invitations for the much anticipated annual Christmas Party, which will be held on Tuesday December 4th. Parents who would like to participate in the organizing of this fantastic evening of family fun, please contact Leanne Bourguignon at lbourg5@gmail.com

Parents from Les Trois Collines will be invited to a special Holiday lunch for parents and teachers, to be hosted by Mali Ghasseimi.

Can you help?

International Day

ASEICA projects are always in need of volunteers. Our active social committee is currently looking for parents who would like to help organize International Day which usually takes place in April. Helpers would work with volunteers from other International Sections organizing raffles, stands, games and other activities. Contact lbourg5@gmail.com or gildacamuto@orange.fr.

Theatre

Mrs McGrath from the Drama Department also needs volunteers to help set up a small committee of parents willing to help out at either one or more of our shows. We will need help with refreshments, advertising the shows, sewing costumes, technical crew, make-up, etc. If you can help, please contact kmcgrath@aseica.org or newsletter@aseica.org.

Communications Committee

The communications committee is in charge of the website and newsletter and is currently working on several projects such as a Power Point presentation of ASEICA and the creation of a brochure. We need people with writing or computer skills and time on their hands. All our documents must be in both French and English so everyone is welcome! Please contact communication@aseica.org or newsletter@aseica.org.

Car pooling

Anyone interested in car-pooling should look on our website or contact Guy Sepahi: guy@sepahi.org