



OIS DYNAMITE

Oulu International School's Newsletter *February 2012*



Events in February

- Week 5** **Wed 1.2. at 17:00 Management Team & Parent reps:** Dream Team meeting
Fri 3.2. OIS Enrolment deadline
- Week 6** **Thu 9.2. at 17:30** Parents' evening
- Week 7** **Gr 9** Parent teacher conferences this week
Tue 14.2. Valentine's Day activities
Wed 15.2.-Fri 17.2. Gr 8 Work Practice Period (TET)
- Week 8** **Weeks 8-9** Student Trainees from University
Fri 24.2. at 13:00 OIS Entrance test

Coming up in March

- Week 9** **Fri 2.3.@12:15** Talent Show
- Week 10** **SKIING HOLIDAY**
- Week 11** **Fri 16.3. at 16:15 Gr 9** Joint Application deadline
- Week 12** **Fri 23.3.** Sustainable Development Theme Day
- Week 13** **Mon 26.3. at 12:15** Students dismissed due to teachers' training
Tue 27.3. Whole school skiing day



Coffee morning

Welcome all new and old parents to have a cup of morning coffee on **Tuesday 7.2.2012 at 8:15** in the Student Council Room

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

As the days are getting longer and the students are enjoying the snow, I would like to inform all parents about a trick that some of our students have been eager to perform on the snow piles and swings, that is the **backflip**. Can you please talk with your child about its dangers at home and we shall do our best here at school to educate the children (we already spoke about it in an assembly) and safeguard the yard during breaks.

~ * ~

Please note that on **Thursday 9.2. at 17:30** we shall organize a **Parents' Evening** with various topics (see the separate invitation). I hope there will be topics for every interest and I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the evening. Refreshments will be sold before the evening by gr 7A students.

~ * ~

We are looking forward to meeting the new students who would like to study at OIS on **Friday 24.2. at 13**, which is the time of the language test. Good luck to all the candidates!

~ * ~

Wishing you a great chilly February,
Rajja Perttunen

Greetings from the Library Team

SPRING CLEANING!



If you would like to get rid of any extra piles of magazines or series, OIS **school library** will be the place to recycle them!

We would be happy to receive for example **Donald Ducks, football and teenage magazines** especially in **English and Finnish**. We shall place a **box for donations** in **front of the school library** during school hours for the next few weeks.

We have received lots of excellent books from various families. **Thank you for your generous donations!**

PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME

"To Choose or Not to Choose?"

Voluntary Second Language A (vapaaehtoinen A-kieli) by Anneli Jokelainen

Knowing foreign languages is an enormous asset in today's world, and the younger you are, the easier it is to learn them. The City of Oulu offers an opportunity for **5th graders** to start learning a new language. The current gr 4 students are making their choices for next year in February.

A minimum of 12 students are required to form a language group. OIS cooperates with Myllytulli and Kastelli schools to form language groups together.

It is really important that parents discuss with their child the matters related to choosing the second language A. It may be a good idea to consult the class teacher, too. Consider especially the following:

- Your child **him/herself** must be the one wanting to learn a new language. Parents' or friends' enthusiasm is unfortunately not enough as learning a new language requires a **lot of patience and hard work**.
- Your child is progressing well in **English, Mother Tongue and Mathematics**. If the learning of these takes a lot of time or is very difficult, then it is best not to take on any extra work.
- Second language A is **voluntary until the decision is made to learn it**. Once chosen, the language is **compulsory until the end of Basic Education**.
- In grades 5 and 6, there will be **3 language lessons /week**, but those who choose to study the language, will only have **2 hours/week** more than those who do not choose the language. The others have an Art or P.E. lesson. In grades 7-9, there will be 2 language lessons/week.
- In grades 8 and 9, the chosen foreign language is one of the optional subjects. It will be possible to choose 2 more optional subjects/week.
- In the Final Assessment (**päättöarviointi**) at the end of gr 9 the second language A may be assessed numerically, or upon guardian's request, as "passed" (suoritettu).
- And finally, as you remember, everyone will start learning Swedish in gr 7 as language B.



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"Parents' or friends' enthusiasm is unfortunately not enough as learning a new language requires a lot of patience and hard work."

Christmas Shop in Action

by Kelvey Marden

Students in Grade 3 and 4 again showed their ability to take action through their work in the PYP before the Christmas holiday.

After a unit looking into the effect of advertising on our choices students wanted to take the opportunity to run a shop in order to raise money for a possible future class trip.

The students were involved in planning what to sell, what kinds of games would attract people as well as how to plan the layout of the shop. They completed adverts to inform fellow students to come and spend their hard earned cents as part of their summative assessment to show what they had learned during their unit.

Students were active in bringing things for the shop, setting the shop up, baking as well as being enthusiastic and friendly whilst the shop was actually open. It was great to see once again that students can take responsible action with the help of their teachers and parents. Keep up the good work!

Happy Chinese New Year!

On Tuesday 24.1. the 1st and 2nd graders had a special theme day. We celebrated the Chinese New Year by taking part in different kinds of workshops led by parents, teachers and assistants. Below you can read our stories of the different stations we attended. You can also see our colourful display of the whole event in the PYP lobby!

We want to thank all parents who took part in the planning of the event or helped us with the stations. 1A students also want to thank their families for providing them with a special Chinese lunch!

This year in Chinese calendar is the year of the dragon. I cannot wait to the year of the goat in three years! *Dominic 1A*

Eilen koulussa vietettiin kiinalaista uutta vuotta. Siellä kerrottiin Kiinan uudesta vuodesta ja Singapo-
resta. Siellä oli hienoja koristeita. Siellä jaettiin ryhmiin ja pidettiin hauskaa. Mukaan piti ottaa puikot
ja syödä kiinalaista salaattia. Soitimme laulua nimeltä Gung Hay Fat Choy ja tanssittiin lohikäärmetans-
sia. Tykkäsin vähän kaikesta. *Tommi 2A*

**We had a Chinese New Year celebration. I liked the food! We were in groups. The best thing was the
dragon. *Samuel L. 1A***

Olimme kuuntelemassa kaikkea kiinalaisten uudesta vuodesta josta me kaikki emme tienneet. Jakau-
duimme ryhmiin, sitten menimme kaikki maistamaan kiinalaista ruokaa, en kyllä muista nimeä mutta oli
se ihan hyvää. Sitten minun ryhmä meni laulamaan laulun ja kaikki saivat soittaa kellopelejä. Menimme
sen jälkeen katsomaan videota leijonatanssista ja lohikäärmetanssista. Sen jälkeen teimme sen tanssin
itse! Menimme vielä askartelemaan lohikäärmenaamarit jotka sai värittää miten vain halusi. Lopuksi
kuuntelimme tarinan ja maalasimme. *Kalle 2A*

I like the Chinese New Year because it is a special day. I liked the food because it was yummy. I
liked the lion dance. *Claudia 1A*

Eilen minä opin paljon kiinalaisesta uudesta vuodesta. Katsoin videoita, sitten meidän ryhmä mentiin te-
kemään lohikäärmenaamareita. Me mentiin satukulmaan kuuntelemaan satu. Sitten mentiin syömään. Lo-
puksi menimme maalaamaan kirsikankukkia ja tanssimaan lohikäärmetanssia. *Olivia 2A*

On Chinese New Year I painted a picture. Then I went to a place where we read books. Then I ate
and danced the dragon dance. Then we coloured a dragon head. *Antti 1A*



MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

International Baccalaureate Thanks OIS for the Evaluation Visit *by Raija Johnson*

The IB Evaluation Team that visited OIS in September sent OIS Staff a letter just recently. They thanked the OIS staff, students and parents with the following words:

“OIS has developed a learning community that nurtures a positive attitude and confidence of the students. The staff were open and versatile and created a friendly atmosphere in the school.

The visiting team thanks the school for participating in this pilot cross-programme evaluation and hence supporting the development of cross-programme articulation. Finally, the visiting team would like to thank the educational leadership team, the teachers, the students and the parents for their welcome and hospitality during the visit.”

The content of the evaluation visit feedback did not change since September when the oral feedback was given immediately after the visit. This was communicated to parents in October 's OIS Dynamite.

MYP gr 8-9 Health and Welfare survey results *by Raija Johnson*

Upper grade students (gr 8-9) participate biannually in a health survey done by the National Institute of Health and Welfare.

The results of OIS were quite good and go hand in hand with the feedback given by the IB visiting team about the learning community that nurtures a positive attitude and friendly atmosphere.

What we as a school found slightly alarming was the feeling of hurry that gr 8 and 9 students felt in their lives. In addition, the students' eating habits at school and home are issues that need a closer look.

Gr 8-9 parents have an opportunity to hear more about the survey results at the parents' evening on Thursday 9.2. I shall share the results in a joint session aimed for gr 8-9 parents with Student Counsellor **Anneli Jokelainen**. Please see the invitation in you email.



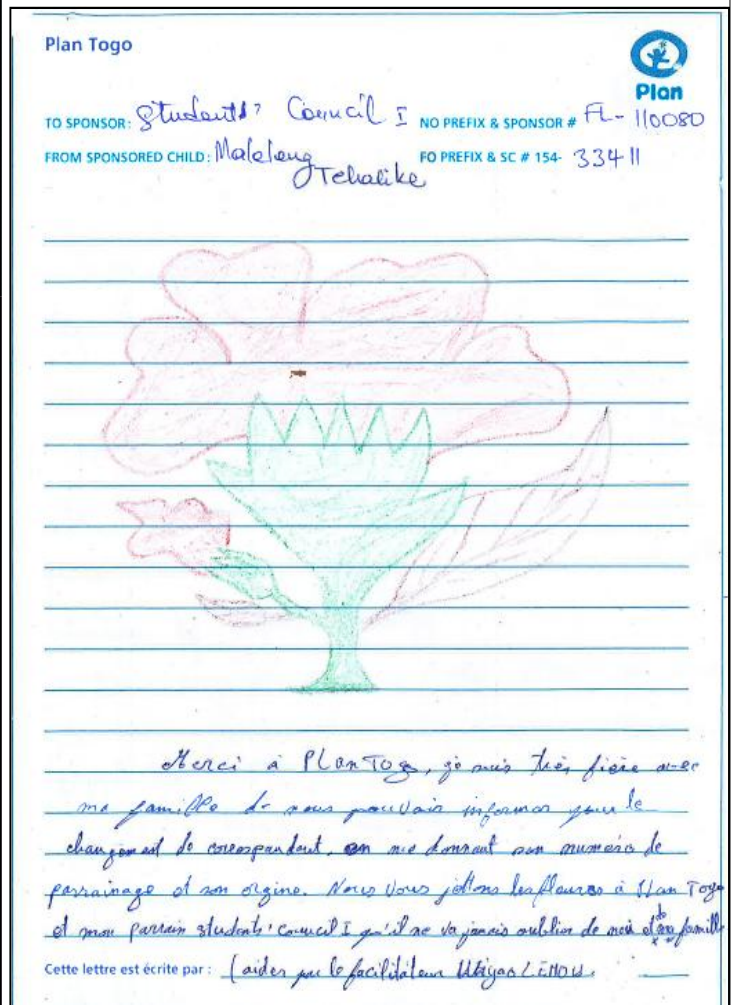
Computer Club

Due to the great demand of students wanting to join the computer club we have had to split the group in two.

As of Tue 7.2.12 the clubs will be run as follows:

Tuesday 14.30 - 15.15 gr 1a, 2a and 3a (group is full)

Thursday 8.15 - 9.00 gr 2b, 3b, 4a and 4b (new members welcome!)



(above) This is a drawing and a letter written in French by our Plan sponsor child Maleleng from Togo. Read more about her and about sponsoring a Plan child on the next page!

Our Plan Sponsor Child

by Johanna Paasovaara & Nea Höynälä

Oulu International School has a Plan sponsor child. We donate about 25 euros per month for Plan. The money comes from the profit we get from the Snack Bar.

Maleleng Tchalike:

Maleleng is from Togo, an area called Sotouboua. She is 11 years old. She speaks Kabiye and she is Christian.

Her family includes her father Kodjo, a peasant farmer, mother Afouwa, a housewife and her 8-year old brother Palouki. Her family lives in a brick house with straw roof. They get water from a well 1 km away.

Maleleng attends primary school. It takes her less than 30 minutes to reach school. She also has access to health facility which is 30 mins away but according to her family she has been healthy.

What does it mean to have a Plan sponsor child:

It is helping someone in need of help. You can always choose the country you want your sponsor child to be from and also the gender. The money won't go straight to the child but to the community. The money will provide them food, water, shelter, health check-ups, that the young people get work and education.

In Maleleng's home country, Togo Plan has for example improved the quality of education, the cleanness of the environment and respecting children's rights. Anyone can take their own sponsor child.



Who is Actually International?

by Anneli Jokelainen

“Can a Finn be international? Who is international enough?”

In November, I attended a 3-day IB workshop in Florence for Personal Project coordinators. The days were very intensive, filled with a lot of enthusiasm and hard work. I felt quite proud to be the only Finn in this international forum, and even felt like (this may be my imagination too!) that whenever I opened my mouth to say something, people actually stopped to listen: they probably thought that when an educator from a great PISA country says something, it must be wise!

Out of the 24 participants, who were classified as “experienced” educators from IB schools all over Europe, only 4 were native English speakers, and even one of the trainers had a strong Arabic accent.

Only a day after my arrival back home, there was an open discussion evening about the areas of development at OIS, one of the topics being the degree of internationalism of our teachers. I asked the people in my table group whether they thought I qualified as “international enough” to be teaching at OIS. Not getting a clear “Yes” or “No” answer reflects exactly how hard defining internationalism is: no-one can tell the other how international, or not, they are. Which brings us to the beauty of the IB philosophy: it is not the language that counts, but the mindset!