

25. March 2011



Danube DIGEST

News from the Director

The number of Vision and Mission translations continues to expand rapidly, this week we have Welsh, Macedonian and Traditional Chinese.



This week our small family school showed our big heart, with support for both Japan and for Waluka Primary School. Next week I will be giving more details about 'Project Centipede' with colourful and banana boxes.



Yesterday we had a wonderful day in the park on the Elementary Waluka Walkathon, I was literally *'scooting up and down in excitement'* and whilst it was one small step for Adam Westfall (Grade 4 teacher), it was several giant leaps for some members of our EYU1 class.



Many members of our community have been noting the wonderful spring weather. I would like to remind you of two events that are linked in some way to this. The first is that the clocks go forward this Sunday. The exact time change is at 02:00 hours which immediately becomes 03:00 hours, please let me know if anyone stays up for this momentous event. The other link to spring is Earth Hour – Luca in Grade 5 informed us at school over the tannoy, that to celebrate Earth Hour on Sunday we should be switching off all lights starting at 20:30 for one hour.



Today

Saturday 26th March:

Earth Hour 20:30-21:30

Next Week

Wednesday 30th March:

Elementary School Parent Teacher Consultations

Saturday 2nd to Sunday 3rd April:

IB Art Exam

Upcoming Events

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Monday 4th to Friday 8th April:
Elementary Science Week

Thursday 7th April:
Grade 11 Study Leave

Friday 8th April:
Grade 11 Exams
EYU Easter Market Visit

Saturday 9th April:
DVAC Middle School Boys Volleyball Festival at Bratislava
DVAC Middle School Girls Volleyball Festival at Budapest

News from the Elementary School

This has been a week of Elementary 'Action', action to help others. We feel it is very important for our youngsters to know that there are others less fortunate than themselves and that all of us, however young, can do something to help.



Keiko, Alice and Julia's mother, has been amazing in her proactive initiatives to raise the profile of the devastation in Japan following the recent earthquake and tsunami and in stirring us into action.



The Japanese Food Sale she organised attracted help from many from within our community and provided the opportunity for our children to enjoy tasty pieces of sushi. We thought the children might not be interested in these Japanese savouries but they sold like hot cakes! The sale raised 310 euros and addition to this 574 euros has been placed in the 'Support Japan' donation box. We thank the DISV community for their empathy and support. Another Japanese Food Sale will be held on Thursday 7th April following an Elementary 'Kibou – Hope' Assembly where there will be two performances from Japanese musicians.



Thursday dawned barmy and sunny and by the afternoon it was positively hot! It was a perfect day for our Waluka Walkathon. At one o'clock all a hundred and eighty plus of our elementary students poured out of their classrooms and into the Prater. The start line on the Haupt Allee resembled the start point of the London Marathon! There was an air of excitement and a gentle jostling for prime positions, then a nod from Nina set the children off. Every child took part and walked or jogged for Waluka, parents also joined us and their support was very welcome. It was an excellent afternoon and my thanks go especially to Fiona Mayer and Nina Horvath for organising this event and to Grade 6 and all the staff for their help. A sincere thank you to parents who sponsored their children for this event, the money raised will help ensure the children of Waluka have something to eat at lunchtime every day.



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The Primary children brought smiles to our faces in assembly this week. They danced and sang with such pride and enjoyment and by the end of assembly they had us all dancing the 'Blues'! Our thanks go to Miss Upton and Mrs Bebbington for preparing the children so well.



On Monday our Grade 5 students were given a wonderful opportunity to see life inside a real factory and our sincere thanks go to Mr. Benedict for giving the children this first-hand experience of seeing industry at work. This visit supported the children's study of electricity as they were able see how switches are manufactured.



Next week on Wednesday 30th March we shall be holding our Parent Teacher Conferences. To enable quality time to be set aside for parents to discuss their children's progress with the teachers, the school day will finish at 12.00 noon. We therefore, ask parents to pick their children up at this time. We do understand that this time maybe inconvenient for working parents and will require special childcare arrangements to be made. We thank you for making these arrangements and I am sorry we are not able to offer a child care service due to the fact all our staff will be involved in the Parent Teacher Conferences.



On Monday it was wonderful to welcome Max into EYU 2. We wish him every success at Danube International School.



Enjoy a wonderful weekend. With kind regards, Jennifer McLaughlin.

News from the Secondary School

Japan: Ever present in all our minds at the moment is the catastrophe which has hit Japan, and it has been heartening this week to see the whole school community rallying round in support of this worthiest of causes. Yuka and Denise (G11) spoke to the Secondary School in our assembly on Wednesday, and collected generous donations from students at the end – and I know Yuka has also offered a Q&A session to classes too. The sushi sale was a real hit with staff and students alike, and I know raised considerable funds. And Ms Dimitrova's G6-8 ELD class has worked with Yuka to promote the Japanese legend of the Thousand Origami Cranes, according to which he who builds 1000 origami replicas of this mystical and holy creature will be granted a wish. Our hope now is that, by the school community making at least 1000 origami cranes, we can send a magic wish to the people of Japan; and why stop at just *one* thousand. Please encourage your children to visit the special desk on the 2nd floor corridor and make a few themselves; the instructions were simple enough even for *me* to make one (and that is saying something!).



Project Centipede: Whilst I am mentioning our tremendous capacity at DISV to support those in need, the time is fast approaching for another visit by the Project Centipede team to Romania, to provide much needed supplies to the orphans with whom this wonderful project works. Either a 'colourful box' or a 'banana box' should be given to Mr Cobzaru at the school as soon as possible, by those of you able to contribute. For further information

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on what precisely should go into these boxes, please contact Mr Cobzaru directly, or visit the project's website at www.centipede-vienna.org. Let's see if we can beat our amazing contributions from the Winter round.



Reading Assembly: Wednesday morning saw another lovely Secondary assembly, this time celebrating World Book Day, which took place this month. A host of staff and student volunteers braved the front of a 250-strong audience to read aloud an excerpt from a book they particularly liked – and the result was captivating. Every reader brought their extract magically to life from start to finish, and the audience was mesmerised throughout. Equally delightful was the number of students who have since asked for details of some of the books themselves, so they can read and enjoy them too. After all, as we all know, those students who regularly read lots of challenging and well written fiction will also be those who get the best grades across the curriculum. A massive thanks and congratulations go from me to all the readers:



- Matthew– *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah
- Lara– *Feeling Sorry for Celia* by Jaclyn Moriarty
- Dominic– *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* by Milan Kundera
- Marius– *The Amber Spyglass* by Philip Pullman
- Oliver– *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder
- Viki– *A Brief History of the Future* by Stephen Clarke
- Tatiana– *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull* by Richard Bach
- Lukas– *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- Rachel– *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon
- Warren– *Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy
- Sally– *Once* by Morris Gleitzman
- Rodrigo– *Pirates* by Celia Rees
- Maura– *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes
- Amy– *Cathedral* by Raymond Carver
- Matthew– *Bumface* by Morris Gleitzman



Extended Essay Presentation: On Wednesday 30th March, from 15:15 to approximately 16:15 in the school theatre, grade 11 students will be introduced to the Extended Essay.

The essay is a 4,000-word research paper, which all Diploma students must submit. It is excellent preparation for university, and offers students the opportunity to be creative in researching an area of academic interest in depth. We hope to inspire them with presentations from some of the current grade 12 students, as well as information from teachers who act as their supervisors. Any interested grade 11 parents (or grade 10 students and parents looking ahead to next year) are welcome to join us.



Parent Teacher Consultation: Staff are very much looking forward to meeting you on 7th April for our next Parent Teacher Consultation, at which they will discuss with you your child's effort, progress and attainment as we approach the end of the second semester. Please take the opportunity to work with your child's teachers in this way, and ensure that your child completes the appointment sheet they have been given as soon as possible.

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Even *more* importantly, **please make sure you bring your child with you to each consultation**: it is only through this three-way conversation that we can truly make a significant difference to your children's achievement and progress.



Have a lovely weekend. Matthew Savage



March saw the conclusion of the DVAC basketball season with some success for the DISV Dragons.



The High School boys travelled to Salzburg for their season ending games. Fighting hard the Dragons lost their first two games in close circumstances. They regrouped to for their last game notching up a win against St Gilgen to secure 5th place.



The Middle School boys entered their tournament in Budapest ranked number 1 in the conference, but also missing a few starters. The Mighty dragons showed their dominance winning both their pool games by more than 30 points. These wins placed them in the final against host ICSB. Unfortunately the lack of manpower and ICSB home crowd resulted in a loss for the Dragons but a second place trophy!! The boys should be proud of their season, continually improving and always giving it their best.

