



Dear Parents, routine activities started again at school after returning from the Christmas holidays, with many didactical projects and much enthusiasm. With our now established monthly newsletter we bring you all the info to keep you up to date with school news and our events.

Back from holidays!!

Is the break over already??

That is probably what many children think coming back to school after the Christmas break! Surely returning to school after such a festive and relaxing holiday is not easy. Soon enough we're back to our daily routine, early morning start included, which in the last few weeks had been happily ignored thanks to the happy and idle atmosphere of the Christmas vacation.

What do our children really think as they return to school though? Encouraging them to express their thoughts gives very valuable feedback to us teachers from a pedagogic and educational point of view. Nurturing their own thoughts and ideas and sharing these thoughts with their peers helps the children to develop and establish their very own identity, self esteem and to improve their language and communication skills.

Below a selection of some opinions the children had after the holidays;

"I would look out of the window and think what may be going on in school, if I would see Maya and Milo, if Safi had already returned too".

"I was unhappy because I wanted to spend more time with my grandpa"

"I wanted to get back to school so I can learn to read and write, and finally understand all the words I don't understand on my next holiday"

"I didn't want to leave New Zealand because there are so many beautiful parks there"



Reconnaissance

From a merely "scholastic" point of view, the return to school after the holidays is, for the children, usually a positive moment. Picking up routines and activities happens slowly but steadily. In this period, the teachers focus particularly on identifying the children's progress and the skills acquired up until this point. This process allows the children to internalize what they have learnt so far. Determining the individual's academic progress during a moment such as the first days back from a holiday break is a recurring element in the Reggio Approach: Through the children's recognition of the concepts learnt so far, we can proceed to "build on our understanding".

Transition

We carry forward our project of the 5 year olds in kindergarten and the Year 1 children from the primary school. An opportunity for the younger children to interact, relate and exchange experiences with the older boys and girls aimed at guaranteeing a progression from kindergarten to primary in the most organic of ways. Valentina and Celeste presented the children to reading activities, animations and a graphic representation of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale "The Elves and the Shoemaker". After reading the tale, the children were asked questions from the teachers with the intention of stimulating their creativity as they verbally recounted the story, allowing for a fun and inclusive interpretation of the fairytale. The exchange of experiences between the younger and older children seems to fit perfectly in the project that sees the creation of a model city. The kindergarten children, following a curricular path devised specifically by Giorgia, made buildings that would later be added to the model city. All the while the primary children welcomed their younger peers' contribution with enthusiasm and open arms, giving names and an identity each of the buildings made by the younger children.



Waiting for chinese new year!

In the last few weeks the whole school has been involved in preparing for Chinese New Year. It has been a great opportunity for the children and teachers to fully immerse themselves in this traditional festivity in order to fully understand the meaning and values of the most important time of the year in China.

With the occasion, the Kindergarten and Primary school children discovered old Chinese legends, and learn how to dance the most famous and traditional festive dances. All these fun activities with Mrs Hong consequently formed the basis of a beautiful performance for the parents to enjoy.

The school Chef Roberta and the kitchen staff also gave the opportunity to the children to make traditional Chinese dumplings (JiaoZi), which were then cooked and served as lunch for everybody. Parents were also invited to school to make the famous JiaoZi in this month's "Atelier del Gusto". Who's JiaoZi do you think were the tastiest?! This atelier was felt by everyone as a challenge and added a pinch of healthy competitiveness between kids and parents to make the most delicious dumplings.

Here are some photos to illustrate the fun and action packed moments leading up to Chinese New Year! Happy 2017 and we wish you all the best in the year of the Rooster!



Agenda

February 24th 2017

Carnival Party

February 24th 2017

First appointment "Add a parent at the table"