



Dear Parents,

April brings fabulous warm days and Spring is now in full swing. The students have been busy in this month rich of activities. This month's newsletter will give you a taste of what the children have been up to.

The taste of Easter

The school held two wonderful Easter cooking ateliers, one for the children and one for the parents. An experience to share Easter culture and traditions and to learn a little bit about this festivity. The first atelier saw the parents busy making "focaccia" (white pizza), while the children learnt about and made "scarcella" (an Easter cake typical to the Puglia region in Italy). A fun and interesting cooking activity, the students had to try their best not to drop or brake all the eggs needed for this special recipe!

On Easter Monday we ended our festive celebrations with an Easter picnic out on the lawn inside the DRC. Colomba cake, home made delicacies and lots of chocolate eggs surely bought joy to students and parents.



Let's draw in Chinese!

With the help of Ms. Hong, our school's Chinese teacher, students from the preschool are taking their first steps towards leaning about HanZi, the characters used in the Chinese language. Chinese characters were first traced in the air and then depicted on paper with tempera colours. Using their fingers to write is not only a fun activity for the kids, it is also an effective way to overcome the difficulties when writing words and symbols for the first time. By using their fingers, the children physically represent what they want to write, and this exercise becomes possible for children of all ages.

In KC class (4/5 year olds), students also attempted painting their first Chinese characters using the traditional Chinese paintbrush and rice paper.

Teacher Giorgia offered the children a similar experience by using Japanese pens, which require a technique very similar to that of the traditional Chinese paintbrush and allowed the children to trace words and characters using this newly learnt technique.

The students practice their precision and fine motor skills with different art tools in an activity that will be repeated in future atelier classes.



Pierino's views on the City of Beijing

The school's "City Project" is in continuous development with every idea, proposal and elaboration that is added to the topic.

On Wednesday 19th of April two very special guest visited the school and the students. Children in years 1 and 2 met with Ernesto D'Alfonso, lecturer of Architectural Design and Urban Planning from the "Politecnico" University in Milan, accompanied by a talented Italian architect called Chiara Anfu.

Through a game originally proposed by Mr. D'Alfonso the students learnt about our relationship with the spaces that we live in and that surround us.

"What is a square or plaza? Where can these places be found in Beijing? What buildings and architecture can we find in these places?"

Using a telephone, the children directed these questions to Pierino, (impersonated by Mr. D'Alfonso himself). Together they went on an imaginary trip around the architecturally rich urban spaces that define the city, while Chiara the architect drew what she heard in real time, creating a visual representation.

From Tian-an Men and the Hutongs to Sanlitun Village and Park View Green, the students discover the many and different squares and plazas in Beijing.

Describing the concept of a Plaza means describing the emotions and feelings that people live in these urban spaces. It means describing the close relationship of people and the space they live in to satisfy their desires and needs.

By comparing their peers' feelings and thoughts the child forms a shared and collective knowledge, which develops the feelings and emotive attachment that he or she has to such a place.

The students then attempted to draw their very own piazza as a "context of life", and shared their project with Mr. D'Alfonso for a real taste of what it means to work as an architect: imagining shapes and designs and visualizing them on paper. You can see parts of this interesting lessons by clicking on the following link:

<https://pan.baidu.com/s/1mia8qIM>



A Trip to the Museum of Geology

Museums can be thought of as a valuable resource to teaching, a place where children can see and touch the things that they are studying in the classroom.

The children's visit gave depth to their recent studies of minerals, a topic covered especially by year 2. The trip also gave the children an interesting insight into the birth of planet earth, and how it initially formed over millions of years.

"Wow, I can see the Earth from the inside". This was a particularly significant comment by one of the children during this school trip, underlining the interest that they experienced.

The section dedicated to fossils and prehistory proved very interesting to the students, but the most fascinating part of the visit was the mineral and rock exhibits, and the diversity in their colours, types and sizes.



Add a parent to the table

The "Add a parent to the table" initiative continued this month, and the last Friday of the month typically sees one of the students' parents joining us for lunchtime. We thank you for your participation and would like to share some photos of the initiative with you.



Agenda

26th of May - Forth date with the initiative "Add a parent to table"

9th of May - Festa di fine anno scolastico