

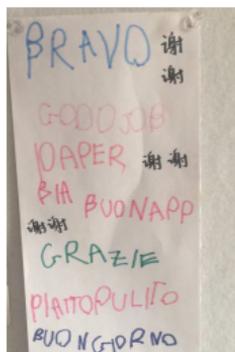
Multicultural and Intercultural: The Preschool explores different languages and codes.

Our School's rich educational offer is characterized by a multicultural and intercultural approach to learning. Children at school are constantly immersed in a multilingual environment and show interest in "decoding" unknown languages from the early stages of their academic life. They explore different linguistic and mathematical codes, emphasizing a comparison between the alphabet and Chinese Characters (HanZi) in the first instances of their spontaneous writing. This interest in the children's approach to languages formed the basis for a new line of inquiry in the 4/5 year old's class.

The School recognizes this as an objective: to help our children, through contexts of dialogue and discovery, to familiarize themselves with the variety of different languages and language codes that surround them in their everyday life, and encouraging a natural curiosity for these foreign languages and codes in their daily routine.

The boys and girls in the 4/5 year old's preschool class are visibly gaining an understanding and confidence on the significance of new sounds, words and symbols in their environment.

This project in part of a continuous line of enquiry shared with the primary year groups, and offers opportunities for discovery to both children and adults at School.



"Invent a Banknote" Project: The primary school participates in Banca d'Italia's art competition.

The primary school sets the foundations for the children's sense of an active citizenship. Citizenship education promotes a sense of solidarity and cooperation amongst students through experiences that teach the children the importance of self-preservation, looking after and caring for others and the environment.

The first stage of this project focuses on promoting an active and conscious economic citizenship: an approach on the values of using money responsibly and the elaboration and understanding of basic economic skills.

The "value of money" is the key aspect of activities and experiences offered to the children: understanding the relationship between working and earning, using money consciously and the encouragement of the idea of saving money, as stated in the Italian Constitution (art. 47).

For this occasion, the boys and girls of years 1, 2 and 3 had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Dott.ssa Elisa Sales, the Italian Embassy's Officer of Finance. This visit was also part of the Schools "Parla con me" project, and Dott.ssa Sales shared her professional view on the history and the significance of banknotes. The exchange was for the children an interesting opportunity to ask questions and express curiosities with an expert in the field of Finance, who in turn offered valuable insights and explanations to the questions asked. Theory was then turned into practice: The children creatively elaborated the design of a banknote carefully following the indications and guidelines outlined for the contest and artistically expressed their concept of saving money.

We wish all participants the best of luck and rest assured knowing that the School will be represented in the best of ways with the children's designs for the contest.



Celebrating Italian and Chinese Traditions: An open cultural dialogue

Over the course of the last weeks leading up to Chinese New Year the children of the Italian Embassy School celebrated two important festivities typical of Italian and Chinese Traditions: Carnival and Spring Festival (ChunJie)

During lesson hours teachers in the various classrooms organized activities relevant to these festivals, looking into and deepening the understanding of traditions, legends and stories typical of Carnival and Chinese New Year. The activities however were not only held inside the classrooms of Preschool and Primary: The students had an authentic culinary experience of the tastes of Carnival and Chinese Spring Festival in an atelier arranged by our fabulous Chef Roberta that successfully engaged children of all ages.

This month's guests were treated to delicious pastries typical of the Italian Carnival tradition for the "Parent's at the Lunch Table" initiative.

Through the preparation and consumption of these traditional and characteristic specialties we bridge cultures and stimulate a strong awareness of identity and culture in the children.



Happy Chinese New Year!!!