

Chinese Civilization – Art and Philosophy

During the academic year, students of Grade 4 have been learning about the birth and development of the “Civilization of Rivers” for their studies of ancient history.

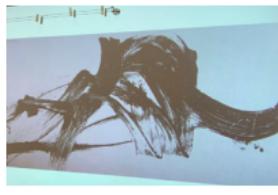
After having studied Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, the students are learning all about ancient Chinese civilization in the period between 6000 and 3000 BC.

Myths and Legends on the birth of Chinese civilization, its philosophy, animals, and symbols used by different clans present at the time, are aspects of local culture that your children are brought up with, and it is on these first inputs and stimuli that the project begins.

Thanks to a rich bibliography, archaeological specimens, historians and tools used explicitly to research, children are given the opportunity to perform an in-depth study on the roots of the “middle kingdom”. The project will continue in the various chapters of the “Parla con me” project, in which the students will be guided in this interesting journey of discovery.

The first Talk to me “*The path to beauty*”, was held on Tuesday March 26th and welcomed the artist and Sinologist Ambra Cortini. Ambra showed children different archaeological evidence of different uses such as masks, vases, and bells of the Neolithic period and the successive period (the Warring States period), in which children could appreciate the aesthetic beauty of objects recovered from a historic moment of change.

In the classroom, the children will document all the phases of this historical moment in Italian with their Italian teacher, which will then be developed with the help of the Atelierista in an artistic context (traditional Chinese art, 国画), and with their Chinese teacher in the study of calligraphy (书法). By doing so, children experience exchange between subjects, also giving an opportunity for Grade 3 students and their parents to exchange competences and abilities that allow them to appreciate the study of history with a positive and creative attitude.



“Languages we Speak” Project

Students in the Italian Embassy School come from 15 different countries and give an undeniably multicultural identity to our School. Boys and girls are immersed in a multilingual environment and show genuine interests in the vast variety of communication codes from their early years in kindergarten. Following this personal interests of theirs, the school has decided to establish a project called “*The languages we speak*”, in which children are given the opportunity to reflect of the presence of the different linguistic codes present all around them.

We started by thinking of expressions used in our daily routine at school. Words such as “Good morning”, “Thank you”, “Welcome”, “Good job”. The children were asked to translate particular expressions with the help of their parents. The translations are shared and used by children in their routine at school, and they not scared of attempting languages that are very different from their mother tongue.

The Red Class is a valid example of a multicultural environment, and within this classroom, we can find children speaking 11 distinct languages: Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, Hindi, Italian, Mongolian, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu. Children, therefore, are given the opportunity to explore each other’s diversity and uniqueness, as they learn to be true global citizens.



“Talk to me” Project with guest Prof. Roberto Antonelli, Phylologist

Students in the primary school years embark on an adventure of research and discovery of the life and achievements of Leonardo Da Vinci to celebrate the 500th anniversary of his death. The project is named “*Following Leonardo’s footsteps*”, and is inspired by the works of the brightest mind from the renaissance period.

The boys and girls in grades 1 to 4 started the project by looking at Leonardo Da Vinci’s legacy, his endless curiosity and the different techniques he adopted and that characterized his artwork. They then looked at the way Leonardo Da Vinci studied natural phenomena, human anatomy and how his findings influenced the design of his marvellous machines. In an attempt to imitate Leonardo’s creative genius, students in the primary began a creative process by talking about their interests and curiosities, which then were transformed in designs and prototypes of their very own “machines.”

In this context of research and creativity, the Primary school welcomed Professor Roberto Antonelli, renowned Italian philologist and vice president of the Lincean Academy, president of the Fondazione Primoli, the Roman Philological Society (Società Filologica Romana), and of the Société de Linguistique Romane. Professor Antonelli led the students in an in-depth lecture on the life and works of the Tuscan scientist, artist, and inventor. The climax of this special lesson came when Professor Antonelli analyzed two of Leonardo’s art pieces.

The first analysis that the boys and girls carried out compared three masterpieces: *The Venere di Cnido (Aphrodite of Knidos)* by Praxiteles, *The Fornarina (Portrait of a Young Woman)*, and *The Dama con Liocorno (Young Woman with Unicorn)* by Raffaello. The students looked at the posture of the subjects in the paintings, found connections and similitudes amongst the three pieces, thus understanding how artists such as Leonardo were inspired by ancient works and attempted to imitate them to then finally create their versions.

In a second comparative analysis, the children looked closely at the techniques used by Leonardo. The pieces chosen for this study were the *Gioconda Nuda* (specimens of which are conserved in the Hermitage museum of S. Petersburg and another in the Fondazione Primoli in Rome), and the renowned *Gioconda*, preserved in the Louvre in Paris. Boys and girls started comparing the three pieces by looking at the backgrounds, which appear to be painted by the same artist. Next, the children were asked by Prof. Antonelli to look closely at the techniques used to paint the “fading” effect is a particular technique adopted by Leonardo.

This occasion was invaluable for our students who were given the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the artistic heritage of Italy, which to this day is so essential that it influences contemporary artists.



Events and Initiatives:

April 10th

Atelier del Gusto Guest Chef Eugenio Iraci
Held in the apartment 3-1-11 from 9:30 to 11:30am

April 11th

Talk to me Project 金亭亭 Jin TingTing, 司徒晓春 Situ Xiaochun and Elisa Debernardi

April 18th

Talk to me Project Etienne Philippe

April 22nd

Easter Monday