

Dear Parents,

In this month's newsletter, you can read all about our children's activities, projects, and events that have prepared the month of October.

First Measurement activities

The girls and boys in the red class of the preschool have started the didactical project "Measurements" in which they discover the concept of numerical codes and investigate and conduct their first measurements. The goal of this project is to learn to orient themselves chronologically and explore the potential in the use of symbols as a way to represent a meaning or significance.

The project develops the concepts of measurements using three investigations: geographic, chronological and physical.

The tools regularly available to the students such as maps, the globe, calendars, and digital instruments are used to research and develop computational thinking and problem solving, as well as inspiring a mathematical approach and logical-analytical skills in children.

Guided in a journey of discoveries, queries, problem analysis, hypotheses and verification, the children reflect on their previous experiences and progressively reach new questions and strategies, while they elaborate and develop new study skills and problem-solving qualities autonomously and independently.



Environmental and Ecological Education Project

During the past month, the "Environmental and Ecological Education" project was revisited as the girls and boys of the Italian school carried out an in-depth study in 3 classroom activities.

In the preschool, the project was connected and tied in with another didactical journey; "Roots of the World", a didactical proposal lead by Chef Roberta in which children are taken on a multi-sensorial and multi-disciplinary journey that explores the culinary traditions of their countries of origin. The main protagonist of this project is edible roots and their use in dishes prepared all over the world.

The didactical activity that bridged the two projects was seed planting. After having explored the significance of the term "root", the students got busy planting carrot, lotus, ginger, sweet potato, and turmeric seeds using three different methods: hydroculture, traditional sowing and transplantation.

The activity of observing and documenting root growth helps the children to understand better plants: how they are born, how they grow, and how they are useful to other living organisms.

In primary school, the project was carried forward during two "Parla con me" talks.

The first talk was held by Etienne Philippe, professor of micro and macro-economics, to continue the "simulated company" didactical project started during the previous school year.

After having revised the essential functions and concepts regarding a business (plans, roles, production factors), the girls and boys thought about the three fundamental elements needed to establish an ecological business: initial capital, knowledge and primary materials.

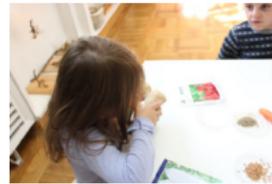
Using this experience, the children had the opportunity to consider the next step in the project further: form a group and do business.

During the second "Parla con me" talk, we hosted the English preschool teacher Mirko Ranieri who is specialized in sustainable architecture. Mirko encouraged the children to reflect on man's impact on our natural environment. Through guided questions, the children were lead to ask themselves questions regarding the significance of the word "sustainability", how to be sustainable, and what is or isn't sustainable.

The children reasoned on the significance of the three "pillars" of sustainability: the environment, society and the economy. These three components are essential to guarantee the sustainability of a project.

The talk enriched the students' knowledge with new understanding and stimulated in them the curiosity needed to give more depth to the discussion.

These three activities are part of a bigger picture of didactical projects that take place over more academic years and involve all the classes and age groups of the Italian school. These long-term projects give a dynamic and invigorating spin on the educational approach of themes of great importance, such as safeguarding the environment we live in.



Simultaneous Bilingualism, aspects of growth and multiculturalism

"Individual bilingualism refers to the linguistic situation of a community in which two languages are in contact with one another resulting in both linguistic codes being used in the same interaction and that a portion of the community is bilingual; we refer to this as communal bilingualism." (H. Blanc)

Girls and boys of the Accredited Italian Embassy School are born and grow up in a migrating expat context of bilingual and at times multilingual nature. In this context, they can develop linguistic and cultural competency simultaneously. All the students of our school can define themselves "simultaneous bilingualism", or as being exposed to two different linguistic codes from birth, or shortly thereafter, and that can interchange between these codes every day.

Numerous studies have been done since 1962, all of which confirm that the bilingual context represents a valid opportunity able to stimulate cognitive skills in both preschool and primary school ages.

With the use of more languages, we interpret the world around us and give meaning to the things we see with using our cultural competences and experiences. Bilingualism gives people a "multicultural" quality, and facilitates their ability to communicate efficiently through different channels, both verbal and non-verbal.

Every activity devised at school is planned and offered to the students to promote language exchanges as a learning strategy, allowing teachers of different languages to cooperate and share their contextual or teaching language, as well as cultural traditions.



Events and Initiatives

November 1st

All Saints Day School closure

November 8th

School will suspend lessons to allow for our parent – teacher meeting

November 11th-16th

VI edition of "Libriamoci. Reading days at schools"

November 18th-24th

IV Week of Italian Cuisine in the World

December 7th

School Christmas Party, Auditorium of Italian Institute of Culture