



VOICES

ESCA Newsletter for ESCA Parents and Friends | www.esca.kg



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30 January 2016

WINTER SPORTS DAY

ESCA students had a wonderful celebration of ESCA annual Winter Sports Day outside in the snow. While Preschool and Primary 1 and 2 students spent their time doing fun activities with their teachers in the school area, students from Primary 3 to IGCSE 2 went to the Chunkurchak ski resort. ESCA students were able to either improve their skiing and snowboarding skills together with the school staff, or start learning new techniques with Chunkurchak instructors. We look forward to more school events of this kind!

LEARNING WITH ESCA: ESCA PERSPECTIVE ON TEACHING

It's fun teaching maths at ESCA. I don't think every maths teacher in the world gets to say that. In fact, in the American public schools in which I taught prior to my two years at ESCA, when I was teaching 4 sophomore (second year Secondary) out of 6 classes each day, the variety of maths instruction I was implementing was not broad on a daily basis. I didn't have fun every day. On Tuesday this week Secondary 2 studied two-dimensional fractals as a way of looking at fractions and sequences; Secondary 3 took 2D to 3D (and heard about dimensions in-between) and learned that the fraction sequences were geometric in nature and named such, geometric sequences, that were intimately connected to the exponent/index work we did in Term 1; IGCSE 1 investigated the relationship between math, biology and chemistry by studying 50 years of data on bald eagle populations, along the way developing mathematical modelling and graphic display calculator skills; and, IGCSE 2 tackled set theory, combined with some statistics and probability while talking about the great sport of biathlon. That's a fun day for a teacher. Every lesson built important skills around handling and finding meaning in numbers.

Of course, tomorrow we'll settle into working with common denominators (multiples), simplifying (factors), exponential equations, Venn diagrams and experimental probability (think: rolling dice meets



choosing red or green socks in the morning where evens represent green, etc.) The activity days in maths ensure a language rich classroom, one in which students are able to suggest ideas, inclinations and even guesses to open-ended questions. Let me just say this: it wasn't me who suggested that multiplication sequences were geometric in nature. That student doesn't have the highest grade in the class and might even be accurately described as a reluctant math learner. But when we're talking ideas and thinking out loud that student is a full-on participant. That's really fun for the teacher. Thanks ESCA! This missive is directed at all parents. We know you expect quality and consistency in all classes, and that some of you feel doubly strong about the importance of maths. Read and reread the ideas floated by Mr. Tony, Mr. Ryan and Ms. Erin: persistence, strategizing, skill- and language-building, readiness and consistent homework (not only given by teachers; sometimes screen time can be productive <http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2013/06/20/5-great-math-apps-for-grade-school-kids/>). Remember to gauge your student's work based on language level. So many of our students plateau in maths the first year of two they are attaining English proficiency that we are no longer surprised when one who struggled in Primary 5 blossoms the next year. It's fascinating to watch and, again, too, too fun to be part of. In two years at ESCA I've worked with and watched students from Preschool 3 to our oldest group. The shift from concrete to abstract thinking comes at a different age for each student. And we watch each child and look for the best approach, whether it's extra tutoring, more practice or just more time. Or maybe, just maybe, a little strategizing over a game of mahjong after school.

Daniel Comar, Secondary School Coordinator

WHY STUDY ICT AND COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Studying ICT is essential because being able to use a wide range of software and understanding how computers and networks work is fundamental, and this will be even more relevant in the future.

As the lifetime of any new technology is shorter than the previous one, the goal is not for our students to master one specific software, but to be able to adapt to any new technology they will come across in the future.

ESCA students, after learning how to use the basic functions of a computer, improving their typing skills, learn how to control the execution of a program and what makes the computer work.

They also use their creativity to produce animations, video games, web pages and design 3D objects.



COMPUTER SCIENCE: A CHANCE FOR STUDENTS, A CHANCE FOR KYRGYZSTAN

In addition, IGCSE 2 students also have Computer Science classes. They enter the heart of the computer and learn how to create algorithms, which are the spine of any software. This will give them great opportunities for the future. With a low unemployment rate and opportunities to work all over the

world, the tech sector is very attractive, but it needs well-trained professionals. That's what I'm very happy to be at ESCA, after being a software developer for 12 years.

Having a youth highly skilled in new technologies is also a chance for Kyrgyzstan, as it doesn't need huge or expensive infrastructure to develop this sector. The main resource needed is well-trained IT specialists.

We try at ESCA to increase students' interest for new technologies while developing their critical thinking.

Thierry Taberna, ICT and Computer Science Teacher

DEBATE ECA

Debate Club encourages students to take an active interest in current affairs, develops their confidence and improves their critical thinking skills; all essential qualities for young adults aspiring to university.

Debating is not just about verbal arguments, but it can help you with research (for assignments), equipping yourself with presentation and oratory (speech) skills.

Also debate prepares students for 21st century careers (debate teaches critical thinking and problem solving, research, communication, collaboration and creativity). Debate also inspires political and civic engagement.

We want to invite all interested students to join debate club every Friday at 15.30. We are also glad that our Debate ECA instructor is Ms Altynai Dzhumasheva, who has been a Regional Coordinator of IDEA (International Debate Education Association) since 2011, and is the first person from the Kyrgyz Republic to participate in the World Universities Debating Championship. She is a great role model for young debaters.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Last week each class conducted second Student Council (SC) elections of this school year, choosing representatives for Term II. Again, we had the chance to learn that each democratic election must be direct, anonymous, general and fair. Last Student Council crew did a great job with Halloween and set the bar high. This term, the main challenge for newly elected representatives is St Valentine's Day, traditionally organized by students. We already have a lot of ideas and preparations have already started, soon you can find posters and attend a card making meeting, as we need more than one hundred cards for our Valentine Post.

Newly elected members are:



Primary 1	Abai Amanaliev Stela Mitul
Primary 2	Kai Obara Knox Armstrong
Primary 3	Andrzej Lachowski Dea Marquering
Primary 4	Aijan Grant Aymir Mirlan
Primary 5	Danielle Young James Russel
Primary 6	Casper Young Yuan Yuan Wang
Secondary 1, 2	Aliya Kochekova David Kim Marta Ora
Secondary 3	Alibek Niyazov Linus Skov-Hansen
IGCSE 1, 2	Akbar Diushembiev Akim Ruslanov

We are happy that new Student Council comprises both from SC veterans and students who are new at ESCA! Good job and good luck!

Karolina Pawlowska, Student Council Coordinator

ART EXHIBITION: FRIDAY 22 APRIL

We are starting to prepare for our annual Art Exhibition, which will be held on Friday 22 April. Ms Lidia and Ms Anna will be selecting students' paintings that have been completed at school. If your children have interesting art works or crafts at home, please bring them to the Art Room before Friday 19 February. After the final selection of works, we will frame the paintings. The cost varies from 450 to 870 som (or more) and depends on the dimensions of the art work. We will be sending more updates about the Art Exhibition in the nearest time.

E-READERS FROM THE PAMC

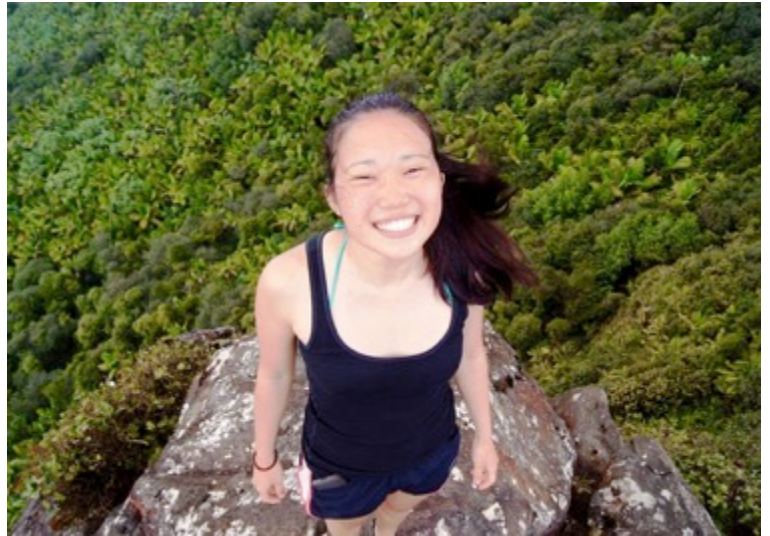
We wish to express our gratitude to the Parents Association Management Committee (PAMC) who have held several events since fall 2015 to raise funds to support the school resources. We are glad to announce that we were able to purchase 10 e-readers with their help. The e-readers will be stored in ESCA libraries and used by Primary and Secondary school students. Ms Erin, Ms Cilla, Ms Hana, Ms Brittany and Ms Tolgonai will work on selecting and downloading reading materials for students according to their age.



STAFFING

We are glad to welcome Ms Akiho Saito who will be supporting Primary 2 class while in Kyrgyzstan. Here is a short welcome:

“My name is Akiho Saito (please call me Aki!) and I am a junior at Wellesley College, studying biology. Currently, I am taking a semester off to gain new experiences outside of campus before graduating college. I will be volunteering here at ESCA to experience teaching during my two weeks of visiting my parents. I have grown up in four different countries before going to USA for college, so international schools are like home to me. I love meeting new people, so if you see me around, please don't hesitate to say hi! I would also be very happy to answer any questions regarding IGCSE, IB or college applications (for both UK and USA). Thank you for all those who have already made me feel very welcomed at ESCA and I hope to meet many more of you during my time here!”



KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have things you want to discuss or suggestions for the school, please contact the Class Representatives or the Head of Education, Ms Erin McRaith at emcraith@esca.kg. You can also meet during the office hours on Monday-Friday from 15:30-16:30 or you can set up an appointment.

MENU

ESCA will offer Menu B from 1 to 5 February. Please follow <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fpCF1fsHKEF5x95apIEEHcdQIRZkArv33F3GJlcwRGM/edit?usp=sharing> to see the menu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 12 February: Valentine's Day organised by the Student Council

Thursday 18 February: Science Fair

Tuesday 23 February: Homeland Defender's Day (NO SCHOOL)

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

CLASS	REPRESENTATIVE(S)	CONTACT INFO	SPOKEN LANGUAGES (If you need assistance with translation please email parentsassociation@esca.kg)
IGCSE 2	AINURA MAMBETOVA	amambetova@yandex.ru	Russian, Kyrgyz
IGCSE 1	KANYKEI BRIMKULOVA	642064@gmail.com	Russian, Kyrgyz, English
SECONDARY 3	JANNIEAASTED SKOV-HANSEN	jannie.aasted@gmail.com	Danish, English
SECONDARY 2	NURGUL OSKONBAEVA	oskonbaevan@gmail.com	Russian, Kyrgyz, English
SECONDARY 1	Representative still needed	parentsassociation@esca.kg	
PRIMARY 6	Representative still needed	parentsassociation@esca.kg	
PRIMARY 5	LIZ DUGDELL	lizdugdell@gmail.com	English
PRIMARY 4	VICTORIA WHALL	vwhall@yahoo.com	English, Russian, French
PRIMARY 3	ANTONIN FRANK	antonin.frank@gmail.com	Czech, Russian, English, basic Mongolian
PRIMARY 2	EVIE SURYANI	eviesuryani77@gmail.com	English
PRIMARY 1	RINA DESJARDINS NASIMA KARIM	rina.desjardins@hotmail.com mailto:rina.desjardins@hotmail.com nasima.abbas@gmail.com	English, Indonesian, French English, Urdu, Wakhi, Kiswahili
PRESCHOOL 3	Eike Martin	eike.puck@gmail.com	English, German
PRESCHOOL 2	IZABELA BONTE	pyzunia@hotmail.com	English, French, Polish
PRESCHOOL 1	EMMA GOATMAN	ejgoatman@gmail.com	English

PRESCHOOL

This week in Preschool our theme has been, "Under the Stars," and Space has given us so much space to learn! Anything related with science is always a great experience for small children since they have so many questions about the world around them, but even more when we are learning about the magic and amazing wonders of the sky.

In Preschool 1 we learned about astronauts such as why they use their special suits and, of course, we also practiced how to walk like astronauts on the moon. We also looked for planets and stars hidden on the moon in our sensory area. We looked to the Earth from space and saw the difference between land and sea. We played as if we were circle planets that move in an oval shape. Finally, we talked about aliens and flying saucers, and learned the song 10 little men in a flying saucer.

This week in Preschool 2 we talked about the letter Uu. We sang the song "Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star," and learned the rhyme "Star Light, Star Bright." During our circle time we talked about the planets and in small groups we sorted planets by distance from the sun. Throughout the week students could choose to play a game with dice and rocket ships, sort stars by size, and write the letter Uu in stardust. During Kyrgyz with Ms. Gulnaz we got to stamp and count stars and learned how to say star in Kyrgyz. During arts and crafts we made paper maché planets with Preschool 3 and we each made a planet Earth with shaving cream and plates. During our outdoor exploration time we took off in our rocket ship by counting backwards from ten and then practiced our moon walk.

10-9-8-7.....blast off! This week in Preschool 3 we have been focusing on the letter /Uu/. We have had so much fun. We have learned about the 8 planets and the dwarf planet, Pluto. We have talked about what makes the sun hot and stars to shine. We made our own planets, sun, star, and astronauts. We have had fun learning 2 new poems about our theme, "Mr. Sun" and "5 Brave Astronauts". In Math we continued working on positions and directions. Next week we will be making rockets and aliens. We cannot wait for our invasion!

Lastly, PS2 and PS3 are asking all parents to bring in their old recyclable materials, such as bottles, boxes, and foil. Thank you, these will help us build our alien and astronaut guests.

Preschool Team



