



# VOICES

ESCA Newsletter for ESCA Parents and Friends | [www.esca.kg](http://www.esca.kg)



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## LEARNING WITH ESCA: SCIENCE

Creativity and science are not two disciplines usually associated with one another. Maybe it is the structure of the scientific method or the monotony of data collection that lead us to think that science is for “squares.” Unfit for the sharp angles of science, creativity is supposed to be a boundary-less pursuit, how can there be a relation? While staring off into the South Pacific I knew what was happening below our boat that a hundred or so passengers could not. We were in a privileged position in a privileged place. Beneath our hull a dozen different animals with a single goal on their mind: Fighting for position next to a single female humpback whale. By using their forty-ton weight, barnacle sharpened rostrum, smoke screen of bubbles, or a myriad of other techniques these animals were in a fight for love. Other males would be joining soon to accelerate the pace. The losers would leave bloodied and with a few weeks left at best to try again. They will be hungry not having a proper meal since they left their feeding grounds some 5,000 kilometres away and will be feeling the pull to return.

As the naturalist on this boat, it was my job to share this story, for at the surface was only pieces of evidence. Boiling of the sea, followed by laboured blows at the surface to the tune of a trumpet. Small patches of pink lines along the skin, a series of blows 75 meters off our starboard and some body contact 15 meters off the stern. This is what everyone on the boat saw, but what I saw was not bits and pieces of animal activity but a connected story, a narrative. It was my experience that allowed me to create this narrative from specific lines of evidence.

A professional painter can look at a work of art and “see” it differently than you or I; the type of paint, style, stroke technique. The artistic narrative to them may be clear, but to the layman it may look like a bunch of dogs playing poker. It takes a creative mind to see the narrative.

ESCA encourages creativity in all subjects, especially science. The world needs creative scientists for innovation. Through participation in this year’s science fair our students are able to foster their creativity by investigating an authentic problem. A problem that they chose, on a topic of their interest, and will create conclusions from their own understandings.



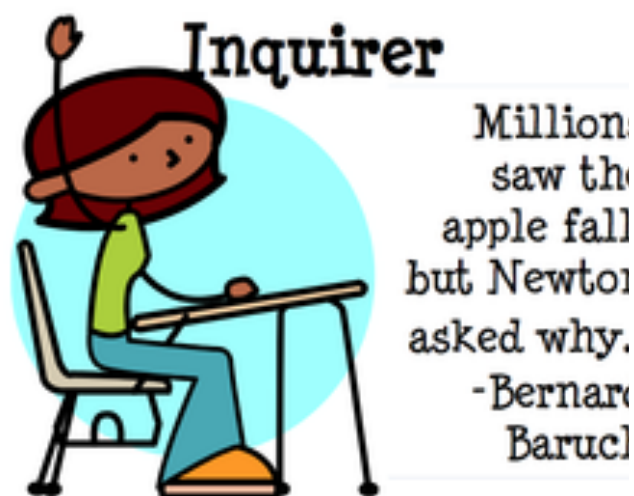
Not all of our students will become great scientists, but in the real world authentic problems require creative solutions. By having students experiment on their own authentic problem they are developing an important skill that will lead them into a successful adulthood.

I encourage every parent to come and have a look at our creative scientists at this year's science fair February 18th. From 15:30-17:00.

*Brian Totman, Head of Science Department*

## **IB LEARNER PROFILE: FEBRUARY**

Making our way through the IB Learner Profiles, February's focus will be on being an **Inquirer**. With our Science Fair taking place this month we thought it quite apropos to focus on this trait as we work extra hard on our inquiry skills and conducting research. Students who are inquirers develop their natural curiosity, acquire skills to conduct inquiry-based research, and are enthusiastic about learning and exploring new things. We at ESCA work consciously to nurture each student's skills to ask good questions, learn independently, and to cultivate a love of learning that will be sustained throughout their lives. Please encourage the students to exhibit this trait and congratulate them when they do.



*Erin McRaith, Head of Education*

## **IB PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)**



As ESCA moves towards its goal of becoming a full IB school I recently attended a Primary Years Programme training in Istanbul entitled, *PYP Making it Happen in the Classroom*. Besides the delicious food and impressive organization of the trainings I was quite impressed and pleased with the workshop itself and the better understanding I came to about this programme. I am excited to bring this

information back to our school community and plan on conducting training sessions for the teachers along with a few informational meetings for any interested parents or community members.

In a nutshell the IB Primary Years Programme is geared for students aged 3-12, is inquiry based, and offers a coherent program for international education. IB has done their research on what works and have used this research to create a rigorous, authentic, and trans disciplinary curriculum. The programme also engages students in ways that are developmentally appropriate, embraces good pedagogy, includes meaningful study and assessment, and is progressive in its nature and from year to year.

I am excited about this programme both for the students and the teachers as it will mean ESCA is making progress on and paying homage to its goals to be Central Asia's most forward thinking, engaging, and internationally minded school. I am also excited about this programme, as I believe it is a well-developed program that will create for our students a rich, authentic, and rewarding learning environment that will serve them well in the future. More info: <http://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/>

*Erin McRaith, Head of Education*

## **IMPROV ECA**

Improvisation (Improv) is an activity that develops intangible but very important qualities for kids such as: imagination, fantasy, cooperation, energy, public speaking and presentational skills.

Improv is especially good for kids starting from 12 years old. It's a good use of vocabulary in variety of contests, as well as critical thinking and performance skill. More importantly it is a great ability to fantasize and to be able to develop your fantasies within the class, while your classmates participate and support your ideas. Kids learn to share their ideas and not to be afraid of being criticize. Lastly, Improv is humor, so laugh and fun during the class are always present.

If you are interested in this ECA, please contact ECA Coordinator Ms Bahora at [bsaitova@esca.kg](mailto:bsaitova@esca.kg)

*Nikita Menshov, Improv Teacher*

## **LUNCH TASTING**

In our continuous efforts to improve school lunches, we are glad to introduce monthly lunch tasting weeks. Parents now have an opportunity to taste the school lunches every month. 2 parents can have lunch at 12:30 and 2 parents - at 13:00. In February the food tasting week will be from 15 to 19 February. If you wish to sign up, please follow the link <https://goo.gl/17uznR>

## **STAFFING**

It is our pleasure to welcome a new member of ESCA staff, Ms Anna. You might have seen Ms Anna helping Ms Erin and Ms Reikhan in Primary 1. Ms Anna is one of our parents and joined us couple weeks ago to provide support with teaching. She has demonstrated dedication, positive attitude and professionalism. We are excited to have Ms Anna on our team!

*Oksana Nam, Head of Administration*

## SECONDARY SCHOOL STAR ACHIEVERS: AWARDED ON 5 FEBRUARY

SECONDARY 1, 2	MARTA	For her small acts of kindness to her peers
SECONDARY 3	SUSAN	For her improvement
IGCSE 1, 2	NOOR	For seamlessly joining our quirky little group
PE	LOURDES	For her good manners and great efforts in PE
ICT	DANIIL	For his constant hard work





## FREE MOBILE APPLICATION ENCOURAGES CHILDREN TO READ IN KYRGYZ

With support from the United States through USAID, the Aga Khan Foundation has launched “FUN KITEP 2” a mobile application with 15 new interactive storybooks in the Kyrgyz language. This free application allows children to read stories and complete fun exercises to encourage reading comprehension. These interactive games motivate children to read more, and quizzes challenge children to understand and think critically about what they have read. Six of the books are also available in Russian and English. Parents can find “FUN KITEP 2” (search “Читаем играя 2” or “Ойноп китеп окуйбуз 2”) on the Google Play store to download on any Android mobile device. The application can also be downloaded from [www.akfgame.kg](http://www.akfgame.kg) to install on any personal computer.

## 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](mailto: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 A from 8 to 12 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 <a href="mailto:parentsassociation@esca.kg">parentsassociation@esca.kg</a> )
IGCSE 2	AINURA MAMBETOVA	<a href="mailto:amambetova@yandex.ru">amambetova@yandex.ru</a>	Russian, Kyrgyz
IGCSE 1	KANYKEI BRIMKULOVA	<a href="mailto:642064@gmail.com">642064@gmail.com</a>	Russian, Kyrgyz, English
SECONDARY 3	JANNIE AASTED SKOV-HANSEN	<a href="mailto:jannie.aasted@gmail.com">jannie.aasted@gmail.com</a>	Danish, English

SECONDARY 2	NURGUL OSKONBAEVA	<a href="mailto:oskonbaevan@gmail.com">oskonbaevan@gmail.com</a>	Russian, Kyrgyz, English
SECONDARY 1	Representative still needed	<a href="mailto:parentsassociation@esca.kg">parentsassociation@esca.kg</a>	
PRIMARY 6	Representative still needed	<a href="mailto:parentsassociation@esca.kg">parentsassociation@esca.kg</a>	
PRIMARY 5	LIZ DUGDELL	<a href="mailto:lizdugdell@gmail.com">lizdugdell@gmail.com</a>	English
PRIMARY 4	AIGUL KUBEGENOVA OLGA FEDOROVA	<a href="mailto:feodora2003@mail.ru">feodora2003@mail.ru</a>	Russian, English
PRIMARY 3	ANTONIN FRANK	<a href="mailto:antonin.frank@gmail.com">antonin.frank@gmail.com</a>	Czech, Russian, English, basic Mongolian
PRIMARY 2	EVIE SURYANI	<a href="mailto:eviesuryani77@gmail.com">eviesuryani77@gmail.com</a>	English
PRIMARY 1	RINA DESJARDINS NASIMA KARIM	<a href="mailto:rina.desjardins@hotmail.com">rina.desjardins@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:mailto:rina.desjardins@hotmail.com">mailto:rina.desjardins@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:nasima.abbas@gmail.com">nasima.abbas@gmail.com</a>	English, Indonesian, French English, Urdu, Wakhi, Kiswahili
PRESCHOOL 3	EIKE MARTIN	<a href="mailto:eike.puck@gmail.com">eike.puck@gmail.com</a>	English, German
PRESCHOOL 2	IZABELA BONTE	<a href="mailto:pyzunia@hotmail.com">pyzunia@hotmail.com</a>	English, French, Polish
PRESCHOOL 1	EMMA GOATMAN	<a href="mailto:ejgoatman@gmail.com">ejgoatman@gmail.com</a>	English

## PRESCHOOL

We had so much fun with space last week that we decided to continue learning about it this week on “Lost in Space”. Children are still very interested in planets, their movements, stars, astronauts with their spaceships, and aliens with their flying saucers. All things related to space are fun to learn, draw, create, and sing.

In Preschool 1 we looked at “friend stars” or constellations and we looked at them through telescopes, then we knitted through stars, we built a rocket ship with geometrical shapes in different colours, decorated our own astronaut helmet, played with stardust in our sensory area and finally made stars to create new



constellations. Our song for the week was about the movement of the earth around the sun, and the moon around the earth.

In Preschool 2 our letter was LI and our theme was "Lost in Space." Preschool 2 reviewed the planets by using our paper mache models and singing the song "We'll be going around the Sun." We learned about the letter LI by looking at a light, a lock, a lion, a leaf, a lizard, our lips, and a lemon. We even got to do a lemon taste testing. The results were a big surprise. Exactly half our class liked lemons and half did not. We worked as a team to make our own moon and got to play with a huge rocket from Preschool 3. One of our activities was to determine what things we did at night when the moon is awake and during the day when the sun is awake. During crafts with Ms Tina and Ms Gulnaz we made lions with paper plates and pasta! For our literacy practice we unscrambled our names and made rockets out of them. For our math skills we counted moon rocks and sorted rockets by size. During our outdoor exploration time we had a science experiment to see if we could launch a rocket of our own. We also got extra messy during our focus groups and made the planet Earth by stamping paper plates in paint and shaving cream.

Blasting, orbit, sun, flying, moon, planets, rockets, astronauts, and stars are just some of the interesting vocabulary we have talked about this week in Preschool 3. We have been studying the letter /LI/ and learned two new riddles about the letter /LI/, and a Jolly Phonics song. This week we also learned 2 new songs about space, "Orbiting Around the Moon", and "I am A Little Rocket". We made our own rocket to fly to the moon and have really enjoyed playing in it. Space has been one of our favourite topics this term...we have been able to be so creative and create so many fun experiences. Ask your child if they created their teacher as an astronaut or alien? I am sure they will have lots of stories to tell you about our adventures! Lastly could you please continue to bring in your old boxes!

*Preschool Team*





