

February, 2010



www.is-ostrava.cz

NEWSLETTER

Hello everybody,

I want to share with you a card with New Year's wishes from **Zuzka Šelová**, one of ISO's alumni. Zuzka is currently a student of a tourism and hotel program at a university in the Hague, the Netherlands (see <http://www.hotelschool.nl>). I must admit for a principal it does feel very encouraging to read such nice words from one of our past students who is now part of a highly prestigious undergraduate university program in Europe! I truly believe we will have many more students like Zuzka, people who are happy to say they have the privilege to do what they have always wanted to do or study. Let me highlight that despite some difficult personal circumstances, Zuzka has always been a nice person to talk to, working hard and being a devoted student, never looking for excuses or making useless complaints. There is no doubt that's the reason she is where she is.

So, Suzie, on behalf of the whole school, I am also sending you best wishes in the year 2010. Let me say we are proud to have graduates like you, people who have been making a good name both for themselves and the school they graduated from. I strongly believe you will enjoy the endless opportunities and advantages proffered by the chance to study at a university abroad, and speak two or more foreign languages fluently. I also believe and know you are the type of person to benefit from the above not only to invest in yourself but also in the general welfare. We keep our fingers crossed for you as you cope with all possible difficulties that might occur while living, studying and working abroad.

One of the best Christmas presents for both the school and my family was when another graduate obtained admission to a university abroad. St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico, US (see <http://www.sjca.edu/>), a university recognized for its high academic level, offered a place including nearly 90% financial aid to **Janek Petrus**.

In a way, it got Janek to face a difficult decision due to the fact that he had been very satisfied to be one of two students in the Applied Physics program at the VSB Technical University in Ostrava this year. However, the offer by St. John's was one of a kind. Thus, Janek did not hesitate long and enrolled in a very demanding program which offers seminars based on reading books instead of lectures based on textbooks. I am happy to say that Janek represented the ISO in an excellent way as he was able to close up the first semester at VSB with honors by January 15th and then make the lightning transfer to St. John's, where he had to report by the 20th.

Some final news for ISO's 2010 graduates - in upcoming issues of the Newsletter, the 1st ISO's Alumni's Corner will be offered for all who are interested in hearing from our graduates about the university life they have been a part of, both abroad and in the CR.



My hope is that the recent news from Zuzka and Janek, as well as the experiences of people like **Monika Kukolová** in Canada, **Žaneta Vuová** and **Vendula Ženatá** in the US, **Adriana Nepustilová** in Italy, and **Klára Sabolová** in Wales, will not only entertain you but also inform and encourage our upcoming graduates. On behalf of the ISO staff, let me declare that we will always support all who are brave enough to take up living and studying far from the comfort of their home and to compare the foreign experience with those who continue their studies locally.

Good luck in 2010!



Jan Petrus

Secondary School Principal





THE NEW YEAR & TROPICAL PARTY

NEWS FROM YEAR 1 AND 2

In December, two Police Officers came to Year 1 and Year 2 to talk about their work as a part of our IPC unit about **Jobs**. We could have a close look at their uniforms, badges and even their equipment, including their pistols, truncheons, radios and handcuffs! Then we went outside to examine their police car, into which we put a few bags of dog food as a donation from our students' families. The police officers exclaimed it would be a very special treat for their lovely and hard working dogs for Christmas. In return they gave us some stickers and colouring books about safety and they kindly promised further cooperation with our school. We all enjoyed their visit very much!



THE NEW YEAR IN CLASSES 1 AND 2

It has been a great start to the New Year for us in Years 1 and 2. We have continued our normal lessons in Maths, Science and English, but started something new in IPC! Right now we are studying Celebrations, so we get to talk about all kinds of fun things. There are many different ways and reasons why people celebrate, and we get to study them and try some of them out! We have already had a special visit from some of our Indian mums, to talk about **Divali**. They told us the story of why they use so many lights to celebrate this special holiday.



Mr. Newton taught us how to play cricket on **Australia Day**. He says Australia Day is his favourite day of the whole year and that cricket is one of the best ways to celebrate it. Too bad we couldn't play it on the beach like they do in Australia! There are many other celebrations that we will study during this unit. We just wanted to tell you how much fun we are having; planning parties, listening to stories, making crafts and decorations, and eating yummy foods. Thank you again to **Mrs. Nair, Mrs. Pradhan, Mr. Newton** and anyone else that is still coming to talk with us about your special celebrations!



SWIMMING LESSONS IN TERM 2

On January 7th Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 pupils started to attend our regular swimming lessons in the **Bohumín AquaCenter**. The youngest students were happy to play games and do exercises in a shallow pool, the older ones were divided into three groups according to their level and skills. At the end of the lesson all children were brave enough to go up the water slide and they enjoyed a fast ride down!



Hausková Štěpánka
Reception Teacher

YEAR 3 TROPICAL PARTY IN DECEMBER

December was an exciting month for the Year 3 class. While students were happy about test week being pushed back a week, they were very upset about putting their **Rainforest Party** on hold for a week. Who would have ever thought a Rainforest Party would be postponed due to a flu-bug? The anticipation grew to great heights and without a hitch the party went off a week later. With tropical music and rainforest treats being shared among students, mums slowly trickled into the classroom to join the fun.



The party started with a mask-decorating activity where mums and students worked together to decorate a party mascot. Soon after the Year 3 class entertained their audience with a polished performance of "In the Jungle". The students then modeled the rainforest masks they created and the mums completed a "Guess Who" quiz. Even though students are sad to say good-bye to their Rainforest adventure, they are more than ready to embark on their next IPC unit – **Pirates and Treasure!**

“CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM”



The Charity of the Archdiocese in Prague (CAP) established the **CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM®** in 1993. Since that time, through sponsors from the Czech Republic, it has been enabling selected children to obtain education directly in their natural cultural environment. It supports children from the poorest families who could not attend school due to financial difficulties, or who would have to leave school prematurely for the same reasons.

The 1st International School of Ostrava has joined this great project and raised money to support one child's educational program.

His name is **Siddi Chrish**, he is from India. This 5 year old boy loves dancing and doesn't know yet what his dream job might be. Siddi will join first grade at the Government Anganwadi School in India and our school will try to sponsor him as long as he continues his studies. For the small annual amount of 4.900 CZK, our school community will fund his tuition fees, school supplies, uniform and basic health care.

Students will be informed about his success and can write him the letters of support!

We would like to make our world a better place!

For more information, go to:

<http://www.charita-adopce.cz/index.php?id=0002462>

If you have any other questions about this program, please, contact Miss Polanská at the Primary School office.

YEAR 6/7

G'day everyone!

Just to introduce myself, my name is Mr. Craig Newton, and I am extremely pleased to have joined the 1st International School of Ostrava, as the new Year 6/7 teacher, taking over from Mrs. Smith.

I travelled over here from Australia at the beginning of January, and coming from 35°C heat, you could imagine my shock as I arrived to freezing cold temperatures and a metre of snow! (My first time seeing snow was, in fact, only three weeks ago!)



I must mention though that my skills in walking on slippery ice are improving, and I am getting used to the confused looks I receive around the city as I open my mouth and speak English!

For those of you that I have already had the pleasure of meeting, thank you for the extremely warm welcomes that I have received so far! I look forward to meeting more people around the school as the term continues!

Craig Newton

Year 6/7 Teacher

YEAR 4, IN BULLET POINTS

In December... .



- We rocked it out for our **Christmas show**, and learned that it's better to give than to receive.
- A lot of us caught the flu, missed some school and got better.
- The rest of us did some Christmas **Arts'n'Crafts**.
- We got our **Term I Reports**, yay – mostly.
- We enjoyed our Christmas holiday, some of us went home, visited fascinating places, or stayed in Ostrava.

In January...

- We finished a science topic '**Habitats**'.
 - We started a new science topic; '**Keeping Warm**'.
 - We're happy with our new science topic because there will be lots of experiments.
 - We finished learning about **Rainforests in IPC**.
 - We dove straight into '**treasure**', our new IPC topic.
 - We had a treasure hunt, found out about some famous pirates and watched a movie '**Muppets, Treasure Island**'.
 - We attended an **Art exhibition**.
 - We stayed mostly healthy.
 - We stayed mostly warm, except when made to play outside.
- Come-on it's minus 6 °C.**
- We found out that we can survive and have a good time even if it is minus 6 °C!

Yes, **Year 4**, built tough and made to last!

CHRISTMAS PARTY



It was a cold winter Monday – 14th of December, 2009. The day was dark and sleepy, but inside the Garage Club everything was bright, colorful and active. The Christmas party of ISO was going to start. All the students and teachers gathered there to make their last week before Christmas more entertaining.

The party started at 6 pm and after a word from the administration, people could go up to the next floor for dinner. The food was good and there were almost no queues – great! The highlight of the whole evening was the student performances. Each grade prepared something interesting and enjoyable – songs, games and theatrical performances.



What's more, two girls from grade 6 performed their dances with which they were successful in an international competition. Santa Claus was also there and even though he did not look like Santa, he gave all the students some presents from his black bag.



Then there was the live music and because the dance floor was large no one hesitated to come there to dance. The party finished at 9 pm. People were slowly leaving. The Club was almost empty when one girl from grade 11 hit the drums on the stage which persuaded some people to return. Along with another boy from grade 11 they made the perfect finish to the whole event.

Adéla Sobotková, grade 11A



FLOORBALL TOURNAMENTS



In the second week in December, our school organized two floorball tournaments for all gymnasiums in Ostrava. As it is a very popular sport in Czech schools, no other school does such a tournament, and we have quite a good facility for that, we decided to invite other Ostrava schools to our gym to play some terrific matches.

In the end, there were 11 boys teams on Monday the 7th and 7 girls teams on Thursday the 19th of December. The teams played in two groups; the best two teams from each group played in the semifinal and the winners played in the final. Actually, both final teams went to the next round of floorball in Ostrava, when all the best teams in the city will play in late December and January. What were the results and what about the 1st ISO teams? Well, our boys team won one match out of four and didn't go to the semifinal. The boys played well, they did their best, but simply, the other teams were a little bit better and beat us three times. As for the ISO girls team – the lack of real floorball players meant two losses and only one goal for our team. Hopefully next year we'll play better and win more matches!

The overall standings were as follows – both final matches were played by Gymnázium Zábřeh and Wichterlovo Gymnázium. On Monday, the boys from Zábřeh beat Wichterle's boys and on Thursday the girls paid them back – the Wichterle's girls beat the girls from Zábřeh and won the tournament after a goal-less match and overtime on penalty shots. I would like to thank Jirka Svoboda and Táňa Micková who helped me with the organization of the tournaments and were the head coaches of the ISO teams.

Ivo Helebrant

OUR WONDERFUL SCHOOL TRIP



On Monday, 14th December we all gathered unbelievably early in front of the town hall. It was a hard thing to do for us commuters, but somehow we managed it. After a while the bus arrived and we could begin the trip to **Dlouhé Stráně** and **Velké Losiny**.

On our way to the power plant we had to pick up our guide, who turned out to be an older man with a delightful Moravian dialect and with endless knowledge about the pumped-storage power plant we were heading to. Once we got out of the bus, we attacked the visitors' toilets, because it was a long journey and some of us simply have small bladders. Then, the guide told us when and how the power plant was built and how it works. After that, he played an instructional video and finally we could go inside.

To get there, we had to go through a tunnel with some weird colorful circles painted on its walls. The guide told us later that the circles should calm people down when they feel claustrophobic, but I personally felt more nervous when looking at them. So, after we passed through the tunnels we got into a huge room that was a few meters under the ground. There we could see those gigantic devices which are used for lifting the turbine when it needs to be checked. We were told some more information, then we asked some questions and eventually returned to the bus. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the upper lake because the road leading there was covered with snow and the stairs were covered in ice. Bad luck I guess.

The excursion to the museum of paper manufacturing was even more interesting, mainly thanks to our guide, a nice and not at all unpleasant older woman, who could not believe that we are a secondary school. Even though we really tried to prove her wrong by turning off our mobile phones and not talking during her commentary, we didn't succeed. Nevertheless, we saw the process of paper manufacturing and lots of other highly interesting things. Apparently we weren't lucky that day, because the shop with hand made paper was closed. Maybe they open it just for real secondary school students, who knows ☺.

Our bus driver told us later: "The excursion was half an hour long when I was here with another school last time. The guide decided that the group was too loud and not interested in the exhibition at all, so she finished early. And you were there an hour and a half. You are a successful group."

Markéta Kurfüstová, grade 12B

HULT UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

On December 21st the grade 12 and 13 students had the opportunity to see a presentation of HULT International Business School, which is located in London. The Director of Recruitment – Austrian Katharina Claucig – led the presentation. Even though HULT is located in London, it practices the American system of education. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, it is rated 16th among U.S. schools and 31st among the world's best schools with an MBA (Master of Business Administration) programme.



First, the students were told general information about the school – where exactly it is located, why it is special and what education programmes it offers. Then, Ms. Claucig explained what the studies look like and what the schedule of each semester is. After this, the students got a chance to ask questions.

Most students from grade 13 were interested in the tuition fees, scholarships, accommodation, living costs, and the possibility of having a part time job. At the end of the presentation the students were given brochures about the school. HULT left a positive impression on most of the students. Several students that were really interested in the school filled out questionnaires so that they could get more information about the school through e-mail.

Petra Koblížková, grade 13A

SNOW SCULPTURES

Grades 6A and 7A created beautiful statues from snow! Their frosty figures included a snow spirit, a stone balance, a child on a swing, snow angels and more ... The best sculpture was created by Adam Křížák, Lucie Ščurková and Vojta Krčmář. Well done!

Nina Pavelková, Art teacher

For more, please go to:

<http://is-ostrava.cz/secondary/Gallery>





NATIVITY SCENE AT 1ST ISO

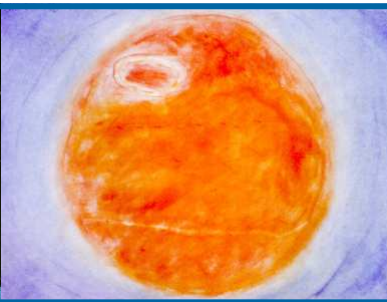
Grades 6A and 7A worked in music and art lessons in December on the Bethlehem Nativity Scene Project. First, students chose characters that they wanted to create and then we started to get to work designing. Finally, we began working with the modelling clay and after two hours it was done! We let our figures dry and in the next lesson, we brought them to life with colour. Amazing figures and animals emerged, and were displayed in Building D to add to the Christmas atmosphere. Thanks to all the students for their great work!

Nina Pavelková

Art teacher

For more, please go to:

<http://is-ostrava.cz/secondary/Gallery>



NEW MUSIC TEACHER AT 1ST ISO!

I was born in Havířov but now live in Ostrava. I'm a pianist and I work as a piano tutor and an accompanist at The School of Art in Ostrava-Poruba. I'm a member of chamber ensemble Trio Carbo (flute, violin, piano). I'm a classical musician, but since January I have been trying to broaden my musical horizons with Jazz and Popular Music Studies at The Music Conservatory in Ostrava.

Teaching Music at The 1st International School will be a great experience for me and I'm looking forward to my new students and colleagues!

Michal Kroček



OSTRAVA!!!



ISO TO HOST GREAT COMPETITION

The 1st International School of Ostrava is proud to host our second annual English language competition, involving primary schools from all over Ostrava.

This year's theme is **Let The Music Come to You**, and it will have an extremely interesting panel of judges, including **Ondřej Hejma**, a well-known singer, translator and judge on Česko-Slovenská Super-Star.

Since the last week of January, our Secondary School students have been visiting local primary schools to drum up interest in the competition, and now the event capacity has been filled. Each team will make a short (up to 10 minutes) presentation in relation to music.

If last year's presentations are any indication, we can expect some great performances from our friends at the local primary schools!

For more information go to: www.is-ostrava.cz

Hope to see you there!

2nd Annual Year of Competition / 2. ročník soutěže



**Let
the Music
Come to You**
12.2.2010

se koná pod záštitou
náměstku primátora statutárního města Ostravy

Ondřej Hejma
Chairman of the Panel
předseda poroty

**RNDr. Lukáše Ženatého, Ph.D.,
Mgr. Lubomíra Pospíšila**

