



# NEWSLETTER



What originally began as a modest attempt to link our secondary school students with Canadian University representatives grew into a unique event of significant regional importance. On April 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> ISO Executive Director Brett Gray led an impressive array of guests into the halls of the school to discuss the diplomatic, cultural, educational and business links between Canada and the Czech Republic.



Mark Landry leads the choir of the Gymnásium Olgy Havlové

The event started in the morning with **Mark Landry**, a Canadian living in Ostrava for almost 20 years, who has translated the songs of Czech folk legend Jarek Nohavica into an impressive collection entitled the **Jarek Nohavica Songbook**. In cooperation with the choir of the **Olga Havlova Gymnasium** in Poruba, Mr. Landry spoke with students from all over Ostrava about his challenges as a translator of Mr. Nohavica's tricky texts, and led the packed Auditorium in singing the new English classics of 'Dolphins', 'Ostrava', and the unanimous favourite of Year 1 'that song about the **Little Pigs!**' squealed a bright-eyed Aaminah Hussain.



Czech-Canadian photographer Josef Hanus, with Niagara Falls in the background

## CANADA DAYS 2010: ANOTHER FIRST FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ISO

Czech-born photographer **Josef Hanus** came from Canada where he has been living for over 20 years, to present us with a large collection of his beautiful pictures of the world's second-largest country. His descriptions of how he took his photographs and the stories associated with his travels were fascinating.

Another fascinating, and not altogether obvious participant in Canada Days was former Czech Foreign Minister, **Karel Schwarzenberg**, who acknowledged the tremendous contributions Canada made in the promotion of human rights and distribution of samizdat literature under communism in Czechoslovakia. In addition, he commented on the Czech Republic's role in the world, and discussed some of the planet's unresolved international conflicts.



Karel Schwarzenberg



Former Czech Ambassador to Canada, Stanislav Chýlek

**Ambassador of Canada to the Czech Republic, Valerie Raymond** joined **Stanislav Chýlek**, the first **Czech Ambassador to Canada** after the separation of the Czechoslovak federation in 1993, in a discussion about what it means to be a Diplomat and to be Diplomatic. Students from secondary schools around the region had the chance to ask both of these guests about the roads they travelled to become representatives of their countries abroad,



Don Sparling has been teaching and writing in the Czech Republic for 40 years

and it was a great surprise for us to discover that Mr. Chýlek's journey began here in his home town of Ostrava!

The afternoon was completed with Canadian university: Canadian university admissions officers from Halifax, Toronto, Waterloo, Calgary and Vancouver spoke with us live through a video conference. This session was introduced by **Don Sparling**, long-time professor at Masaryk University and currently active in the **Central European Association for Canadian Studies**.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Gray participated as a **panelist** at the **Business Breakfast** held with **Ambassador Raymond** and the **Canadian Chamber of Commerce**. All in all, the event was a great success, and all of the participants expressed their enthusiasm for coming back to Ostrava for Canada Days 2011!



Ambassador of Canada to the Czech Republic Valerie Raymond with Ostrava Primator Petr Kajnar and Brett Gray

For more photos and media links, go to: [www.is-ostrava.cz](http://www.is-ostrava.cz)

## SPRING ARRIVES IN YEAR 2



At last, spring has arrived and our IPC unit matches beautifully with it! It is called **Flowers** and **Insects** and although we have just started learning about it, we are really enjoying it. We can already name the basic flowers around us! We have a great collection of different kinds of seeds on a board display and we are growing some in our classroom as well in the school garden! We are also building our own gardens out of shoe-boxes! We have been on a **Minibeast Hunt** around our school! Finally, by using a glass jar, dirt in a stocking, and grass seeds, we have each made a little man - a **Hairy Harry**! Come and see!

Jarka Corkill

## READING WITH DADS CONTINUES



Our reception kids are so lucky to have had such interesting readers come to visit in the past few weeks! We are looking forward to more special guests!



## OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

It was 'out with the old, in with the new' in the **Year 3** class in March. The students began studying new topics in Science and IPC. The most memorable event for the children this month was creating "**No-Bake-Rock-Cakes**", an introduction to Rocks and Soils. In order to discover how igneous rocks are formed, the students used melted chocolate and a variety of other delicious ingredients to produce treats they could eat. While students had chocolate from their ears to their elbows, they had a first-hand look at how processes that involve heating and cooling create rocks. While there are many exciting events in our April/May calendar, such as the **Cricket Tournament** and weekly swimming, students will begin preparing for the year-end **SATs tests** that will be completed at the end of May. So, as it seems, out with Term 2 and in with a busy Term 3.

## EARTH DAY IN YEAR 4

April in Year 4 started with the holidays for Easter, hooray!!! Most of year 4 participated in Science Week - loads of experiments and opportunities to exercise the brain and get our hands dirty, all in the name of science!

At the start of term 3 we welcomed a new student into our class. Young Hyun Yoo is fitting in nicely.

April has been designated a working month in Year 4. Homework is stacking up as we prepare to tackle our last and most important round of **SATS tests**. Mr Reeves, have mercy!



Year 4 get down to cleaning up!

Year 4 have started swimming again in Bohumín, we think that we may be part fish as we all love to get wet and swim around. **Earth Day** took place on one of our swimming days. Although we were all exhausted from the pool, we managed to summon enough energy to put on our rubber gloves, grab some bags and head out into the world picking up rubbish and doing our bit for the planet. We finished in the park and left our 'Earth Day' messages to '**Save the Planet**' in biodegradable chalk on the footpaths for all to see.

Dean Reeves

## MISSION TO MARS FOR YEAR 5 & 6



Mr. Cooney and Mr. Newton arrive with their team on Mars

Term 3 has begun and is an extremely busy yet exciting time for our Year 6 students. There is no doubt that in the blink of an eye, the students will have reached the end of their primary schooling!

We finished off last term with our final task in the **Mission to Mars IPC unit**. Students had to design and build a space station that could support human life on Mars for many months or years. They had to make sure they included important things like food sources, waste disposal, obtaining water, health and fitness, and entertainment. Groups then had to present their final models to the "ISO Panel" and explain why theirs would be the best one for building on Mars. Students in Years 5 and 6 joined forces to complete the project, and it was fantastic to see the outstanding teamwork and leadership skills being shown. Overall, students thoroughly enjoyed the project, and should be congratulated on their efforts! You never know – Years 5 and 6 could be the architects and engineers of the future!

Craig Newton

The Year 5 and 6 classes were able to visit the Avion Shopping Center at the beginning of April to attend an exhibit on space travel and the moon. The students were able to see an exact replica of the space suits worn by astronauts and a model of the International Space Station. The visit was an excellent opportunity for the Year 5/6 students to test their knowledge of space and our solar system. They did a superb job on posing interesting questions to our tour guide and demonstrating their knowledge of space travel and the moon. Even Mr. Cooney and Mr. Newton found the trip to be most interesting. The best part, though, was when the classes were put in a small enclosed room with a foam floor. The room was designed to give the students a feel of what it was like to be on the moon and what the earth would look like if you were standing on the moon. Both classes had a great time and are looking forward to their next field trip!

Drew Cooney



Year 5 & 6 work on their Mission to Mars

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!



Students in Years 5 and 6 have begun their weekly lessons at the Arrows Baseball field to learn a little about an American sport played in the Czech Republic. Look forward to the next newsletter for a full article.

## "KOLONA" GRADE 11A & 11B



Betty Petrusová & Jan Gibson

Each year the 11 graders attend special dancing classes that always end with a final ball called Kolona. Many teachers were invited to this ball and could enjoy watching their students dance. We hope they all had fun!



Nela Janoschová & Vláďa Vlasák

## GRADUATION BALL



Graduates with their Class Teachers and Mr. Petrus



We started to organise this big event in October. I had thought that there was enough time to reserve a proper hall, but I was wrong. Everything was booked until the end of March! So that's why we had to wait until April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in DK Akord.

If you have ever tried to organise a ball, you know that really is a lot to do. Fortunately, many people agreed to join the team and to help with the preparations. **Barča Švagerová** designed invitations and tickets, **Terka Dobešová** and **Lucka Vehovská** took care of "tombola", **Markéta Kubinová**, **Jonáš Gray**, **Tereza Steinhüblová**, **Adéla Pavlínková**, **Štěpán Cvik**, **Štěpán Ochodek** and I prepared the program for the evening. It was actually quite difficult to come up with a program that would be both dignified and amusing. A big thanks goes to **Katka Hájková**, **Aneta Dykastová**, **Barča Malíková**, and **Tomáš Večerek** for their organisation, as well all of our classmates who participated in Cake Day.

The ball officially started at 7:30 P.M. **Jonáš** and **Terka** made a welcoming speech and launched the ceremony with dancing majorettes. After a few words from the senior management, **Adéla** and **Markéta** made a presentation about our four years at the 1<sup>st</sup> International School of Ostrava. And then, the big moment: the "sashing". We all lined up behind the stage and individually came on stage when our names were read. Our class teachers said a few things about us, such as what our favourite subjects are or what schools we are applying to. Once the last student was sashed, we all lined up under the stage and the parents had a chance to take pictures of us. And finally, a "thank you" presentation to all of our teachers by **Štěpán** and my self.



The Big Band

During the break, most of the attendees searched for **Terka** and **Lucka**, who were selling tickets for the tombola. They were sold out almost immediately. Of the 65 amazing prizes, the biggest winner was **Mr. Helebrant**, the proud owner of a whole pig! The rest of the evening was made magical to the rhythm of swing music. The **Krnov Big Band** performed brilliantly and many parents said that it was nice to listen to something different than all of the classical "ball songs" which are played at almost every ball. The band really whipped us up to the dance floor, even getting us to voluntarily boogie to songs like "YMCA" or "Ezop a brabeneč". At 11:30 our DJ took over and kept us dancing until 2:00 am. It was a very special event!

I keep my fingers crossed for all the future graduates - I hope that your ball will be as great as ours; and you can keep your fingers crossed for us - because maturita is coming!



Petra Koblížková, grade 13A

## FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME



Participants came from Russia, the UK, The United Arab Emirates, Croatia, Sweden, and of course, the Czech Republic

From **March 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, Executive Director **Brett Gray** and Primary School Vice-Principal **Jana Polanská** were in Budapest, Hungary to attend a training seminar held by the International Baccalaureate Organisation. The Introduction to the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) for Administrators marks the school's first step towards implementing this special programme for Years 7-11. Other teachers who will undergo special training this year include **Jiří Svoboda** (IT), **Agelikki Karsinou** (Maths), **Cathy Bohač** (Arts), **Gitana Chunyo** (English), **Nina Pavelková** (German), and **Anthony Taylor** (Sciences). The International Primary School will be expanding in to Year 7 starting in **September 2010**, and the IB MYP offers an excellent opportunity for those students to build on their IPC foundations. A special thanks goes to **Phil Corkill** for his consistently excellent work as our IB Coordinator!

## TRIP TO PRAGUE



Several students from grades 12 and 13 went on a Trip to Prague on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2010. They took advantage of the invitation of the Vice-President of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, **Miroslava Němcová (ODS)**.



Upon arrival, we went for a good breakfast and then we went straight to **the Parliament of the Czech Republic**. A guide was waiting for us when we arrived, and after seeing a documentary about the Parliament, she guide acquainted us in a very interesting way with all the operations of the entire Parliament. She showed us all of the rooms and other spaces of the building. On the walls, we could see beautiful tapestries featuring the regional cities of our country and the names of famous Czech artists. We even went to the council hall of the Parliament and took some pictures. The Parliament visit was not only a pleasant experience, but most of us can now finally imagine the importance of working in the Parliament. It was a great shame that on this day an extraordinary session parliamentary was called, and our planned discussion with Mrs. Němcová was cancelled.



*U.S. Universities Fair*

At four o'clock, our whole group met in front of the Palladium shopping mall, and we went to the Marriott Hotel to participate in the **U.S. Universities Fair**.

Representatives of many schools pleasantly answered on our questions, with smiles. Each of the universities had a lot of promotional materials prepared and presented themselves very professionally.

After a very pleasant two hours, we headed toward the train station. We got on the Pendolino train to Ostrava, and we spent the whole way back chatting about our experiences of the day.

**Gabka Urbanová**, grade 12A

## EARTH DAY 2010: DOING OUR PART TO CLEAN UP OUR PART OF THE PLANET



*The mess is that way!*

A group of (about 30) students from **grades 10, 11 and 12** went to the forest in **Stará Bělá** on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. We took tram #2 to Výškovice, and then walked for an hour to get to the forest. Our job was to pick up branches of trees and collect them into piles. It was a hard job, but in spite of our small numbers, we managed to clean the area we were assigned to. When we asked our working colleagues whether they felt a sense of satisfaction about what they were doing, most of them said yes. We look forward to next year's Earth Day!

**Tereza Krátká**, grade 11B

Earth Day was on the **22<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2010**. We went to a forest called **Bělský Les**. Our task was to clean the whole forest, including the rubbish that was on the ground and the clothes that were left by the homeless. We started at 9 o'clock and ended at 12.30. It was actually quite fun, but also disgusting. But we were all happy that we could do something for nature and we could help the environment.

**Michaela Polmanová**, grade 9A



*... or that way?*



*Grade 7 finds that there is a lot of work to do!*

## VISIT TO THE DISTRICT COURT IN OSTRAVA PORUBA



On Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, as a part of our Social Science lesson, we went on an excursion to the **District Court in Ostrava Poruba**. As usual, most of us took this tour as any student of any other school would, thinking about how long we would stay

there and how many hours of school we were going to miss, thanks to it. But this time it was not the case.

When we had all successfully passed the security screening, including Tomáš Dřímál, we had a discussion with a judge of commercial law and a judge of criminal law. The discussion was held in a friendly and informal atmosphere and the judges were very helpful. After three hours, it was clear that our class took a genuine interest in our legal system.

Most of us had substantial questions, most of the time, for JUDr. Jitka Kaustová, who was very nice, and smart. We learned many interesting things; among other things we also heard some personal opinions of both judges and curiosities dealing with various trials. After the talks, during which no one got bored, we went directly to the courtroom. Here we tried on gowns and learned how everything works and functions during a court trial. For our efforts, we were invited to a future court hearing.

We left the court very satisfied, and only when we were outside did we finally realized the fact that we had spent so long in there. We were all excited with this event, and Miss Micková might be surprised to find some future judges among us.

**Petr Rubáček**, grade 12A

## SCHOOL PARTNERS: NATURPRODUKT CZ PROVIDES NEW LAB EQUIPMENT!



This lab is used for physics, chemistry and biology lessons. And some great new lab equipment was made available thanks to the **Naturprodukt CZ**. The people there are helping us to make the lessons more applicable and practical.

Our students can use modern electricity and optics sets, compasses, and magnifying glasses in physics, a skeleton and model ear in biology, some chemicals and practical sets for chemistry, and much more. A "Little Anne" test dummy was bought, as well, so that our students can practice resuscitation techniques.

Naturprodukt CZ has been a great supporter of the school. In the past, the company has helped us with maps for geography and history lessons, and provided our students and teachers with vitamins and Dr Theiss Mucoplant plantain pastilles, during the flu epidemic season.

Not only have they helped us to equip our new laboratory, but they have invited our students to come and see the company and their equipment, as well. We are planning to take our students for an excursion to Naturprodukt CZ, a company which produces several hundred cosmetic and medical products. It will be an excellent opportunity for our students to see some things they study in the subjects like Man and Work, Social Science or the Seminar of Economics in real life. We are very grateful for this cooperation and are looking forward to cooperating with more companies dedicated to supporting education.

## LABYRINTH OF LIGHT

A group of students from the grade 11 who attend Ms. Palkova's Art classes participated in an exhibition called "**Labyrinth of Light**" (Orbis Pictus), by Petr Nikl and Ondřej Smeykal, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. This wonderful event took place in The Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava behind the Elektra tram station.



This was the best exhibition experience we have ever had. Everybody had a great time there because this exhibition featured exhibits from many undiscovered perspectives. Everyone was allowed to touch the exhibits, which featured nice lighting effects. We recommend this exhibition to everyone!

**Filip Dudys**, grade 11A

## STUDENT'S ELECTIONS



Our school proudly took part in a project organised by **Člověk v tísni**, called **Student's Elections** (Studentské volby). Although this event caused some controversy across the country, we went ahead with elections on Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as planned.

Classes came to our special room designed for this occasion – we brought a screen and a hand-made ballot box and voted for a political party just as in regular elections. We hope that this can increase young people's interest in politics. The result won't be published until after the real elections at the end of May, but I can say that they didn't surprise any of the members of our election committee.

**Tereza Krátká**, grade 11B