

1ST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF OSTRAVA

1/2557 Ostrčilova, Moravská Ostrava 702 00 Czech Republic

www.is-ostrava.cz

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NEWSLETTER



1ST ISO AWARDED CIS MEMBERSHIP

Dear School Community,

It is a great pleasure to announce that the 1st International School of Ostrava was awarded Regular Membership with the Council of International Schools on May 13th, 2009. This paves the way for our school to continue along the road to full accreditation over the next several years.

Our cooperation with the CIS began more than a year ago, at first by email, then through visits with our referee schools in Krakow, Poland (International School of Krakow), and Prague (The Riverside School and the International School of Prague). In November 2008, Primary School Vice-Principal Jana Polanská and I had the chance to participate in CIS-sponsored events and meet with wonderful and inspiring people from the CIS community all over the world.

Nicholas Bowley came from Italy to carry out the inspection. As a former Head of several international schools in Africa and Asia, Mr. Bowley had a wealth of experience to share, and many positive suggestions to make. We look forward to picking his brain in the future!

We are also looking forward to working with the students, parents, staff and the wider community on developing and implementing the school's Philosophy & Objectives as well as the school's overall Development Plan.

I would like to thank all of our teachers and support staff for the fantastic job they have done and the faith they have placed in our school. You have helped to build the region's only real International School, and the first one outside of Prague to gain such prestigious membership!

Brett Gray

Executive Director

Primary School Principal



Jana Polanská, Brett Gray and Anne Maguire of the CIS in November 2008 at the European Council of International Schools Annual Conference in Nice, France.



With Charge d'Affaires Mary Thompson-Jones



Question and answer session

US EMBASSY VISIT

On the 14th May, three staff members from the US Embassy in Prague came to visit and speak with students in grades 10 and 11 at the 1st International School of Ostrava. The meeting was organized by Nikki Johnson, an American teacher who is currently teaching at the 1st ISO as part of the Fulbright Teacher Exchange program. Charge d'Affaires Mary Thompson-Jones was the key speaker at the event.

The 1-hour event was organized as a question and answer session. The first half of the meeting was organized as a small roundtable discussion. Parts of this discussion should be posted to the US Embassy website in the next few weeks. During the second half of the session, all students were able to ask questions to Mrs. Thompson Jones, as well as the other embassy staff: Marek Svoboda and David Gainer. Students asked questions on a range of subjects. Some students wanted to know about typical American foods, others wanted to hear an American perspective on the financial crisis, and still others wanted to hear about US perceptions on everything from Czech culture to the current Czech government.

The active participation by students throughout the event is evidence of both their interest and the events success.

PONY RIDING TRIP FOR RECEPTION

On Wednesday 22 April Reception class visited a horse ranch called "Mušketýr" in Slezská Ostrava. We had a chance to pet different kinds of animals, such as horses, ponies, goats, cat, and puppies. We also got to know what horses eat and how to look after them. At the end, each of us got to ride a pony, which was a great fun!



Reception class at the "Mušketýr" horse ranch

YEARS 1 AND 2 REPORT

What's been happening in Year 1 and Year 2?

Well, we have had another great month! May was full of trips and projects, special guests and goodbyes.

Trips

This month we took two really great trips. We went to the Tatra Museum in Kopřivnice and to the traffic playground here in Ostrava. We got to ride the tram and two different trains to get to museum, and when we were there we got to see a lot of really neat things. Tatra has made all kinds of different types of transportation, including a snow car! The traffic playground was fun too. We learned what it is like to drive, but we used bikes and scooters instead of cars. Who knew there were so many things that Mum and Dad have to pay attention to when they drive?

Projects

In Year 2 we designed our own plans for a transportation vehicle. Then we met with partners to combine our ideas into one plan; that we then built. It is a lot of hard work to build trucks and boats! We used a lot of cardboard, paper, bottle caps, straws and glue. After we finished making our vehicles, we presented and tested them for the Year 6 class.

Special Guests

Mr. Barker came to visit us from England. He has spent a lot of time helping us in Year 1, especially during our testing. Our favorite thing to do with Mr. Barker is to listen to him play the guitar. We like the Beatles!

Goodbyes

The end of May brings us closer to the end of the year, and saying goodbye to all of our friends and teachers for the summer holiday. We had to say goodbye early to some of our friends though. Marta, from Year 1 and her brother, Viktor, from Year 3, moved back to Sweden at the end of the month. It is sad when we have to say goodbye to our friends, but we are really happy that we got to meet them in the first place!

Misty Cooper

ANOTHER FANTASTIC CAKE AND SUSHI DAY!

The hardworking mums, who do such a wonderful job preparing the tantalising treats for the cake and sushi days, aren't usually around to hear the satisfied "mmmmmm yum"s and "oohhh, this is awesome" comments that come from the grateful students and teachers. So, here are just a few of the comments that people have made:

"The Sushi was amazing!! It was a great change to our everyday snacks! ☺ Thank you for making them!!!"

"Cake and Sushi Day is one of the most anticipated monthly events for the teachers at the Primary School. We all agree we must have the best mums in the world!"

"Simply delicious ☺"

Grade 5 is extremely grateful to the mums, especially since they were able to raise over 4000 crowns to buy something special the class could not otherwise afford—A BIG BIG THANK YOU to all involved.



Traffic playground



Mr Barker—Live at 1st ISO

ENGLISH COMPETITION

Three students from **grade 12B** represented our school in the citywide round of the English-language "Gate" literary competition on May 26 at Pygmalion Language School, and they dominated the awards. **Aneta Dykastová** took first place, **Stanislava Horáková** was in second, and **Gabriela Kociánová** was in third. The competition, based on speaking and writing skills, followed a school round in which students read an abridged version of "The Merchant of Venice" and were tested on their understanding. Congratulations to the ladies of 12B!

CZECH AND CANADIAN STUDENTS WORKING TOGETHER

Students of Grade 11 have recently had a chance to cooperate with their buddies from Glengarry District High School in Ontario, Canada.

As a part of their Geography project they researched information about Canada while Canadian students with the help of ISO students researched information about Czech Republic.

The project was focused especially on tourism and the culture of both countries. Students could choose from many topics dealing with culture, population, tourism and many others.

They all really enjoyed the project, especially having the chance to speak and cooperate with someone in another country. Their precious projects are the evidence.

Big thanks to our old colleague Lindsey Howes who inspired this cooperative project.

Jiří Svoboda



1st International school of Ostrava is organising:
The 5th annual SUMMER FUN CAMP 2009.

from 8th August to 15th August 2009
a nice valley in the Beskydy mountains
Hotel Galik, Velké Karlovice, www.valachy.cz

- A perfect opportunity to meet your new schoolmates and teachers
 - Lessons in English – pleasant and entertaining teaching with all teachers
 - Team activities – team building, creative and cooperative games and contests, social evenings
 - Outdoor activities – cycling, ropes centre, swimming, golf, horse riding, archery, paintball
 - Open to new Grade 6 and Grade 10 students and to temporary Middle School students and to all applicants
 - Price is 6.000 CZK which includes accommodation, full-board, free drinks and all outdoor activities.
- Photos from last year are available at www.is-ostrava.cz

More information for all applicants:
Mr. Ivo Helebrant, helebrant@is-ostrava.cz.



Prague Trip

INCA'S TREASURE EXHIBITION IN PRAGUE

On Thursday 14th May students of grade 7, 8 and some students of Spanish went to Prague to see the Inca's Treasure exhibition.

In the early morning we had to be at the railway station and we took the Pendolino train to Prague. Ms. Blahetová, Ms. Krejčí and Ms. Langrová went with us. The train takes three hours and we thought that it would be boring but it was good and funny. In Prague, we took the metro and we went to see Inca's gold. It was very nice, there were many old things made from gold, lots of pictures and one film. The film was about Incas and how Pizarro defeated them and took their gold to Europe.

After that we went to Charles Bridge, the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square. We had lunch and we could buy something as well. Then we took the train back. We had to sit another three hours but we were happy...

Anna Hamplová, Jiří Procházka

Grade 7

"OSTRAVA—MY CITY" HISTORY COMPETITION

Eight students from grade 7 and 8 (two teams) participated in the "Ostrava-My City" competition that was organised by ZŠ L.Štůra under the auspices of Ostrava's municipality.

This competition had three tasks. The first two could have been done at school. The students were asked to make:

1. An invitation to Ostrava City that should attract a potential visitor.
2. A postcard of Ostrava that would present the city to the rest of the world.

The first two tasks had to be done in English, German or Russian. Those who were successful in the first two tasks went to the third round in ZŠ L.Štůra where they had to answer questions about the history of Ostrava.

Our students won the 1st task of the competition and placed 6th overall.

If you want to see the invitations and postcards that they made, they will be displayed from the 4th to the 14th of August in the foyer of the New Town hall.

Dagmar Blahetová

RECENT EVENTS



2009 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Dear Parents, Students, Dear colleagues, Dear guests

Welcome to the Graduation 2009 Ceremony.

I have experienced a truly demanding week. First Graduation week at the ISO. I must admit that on Monday morning I did feel nervous, or perhaps anxious, like I was one of the graduating students. But it's all over and I feel very happy now.

Let me make a big step back. It is September 5, 2005 and we are standing in front of a newly reconstructed building called "The Výměník" together with many of you.

Obvious feelings of nervousness mixed up with high expectations hanging up in the air. There are big question marks in the eyes of many students, their minds obviously flooded with unspoken inquiries of what's going to happen here in the future days and years.

There are two classrooms and one staffroom, 16 students, 16 teachers, ... that's the school of my dreams, 1 on 1! The plan is to run a school pursuing education in Czech and English on the basis of the international educational principles...simply said less memorizing, more logical thinking, different approach to students, to assessing their work etc.

And here we are after four years with the graduating class which has got blown up to 23 students, mostly those who needed or wanted to transfer from schools abroad where they had spent a year to pick up a new experience. In the meantime, the school has grown up to nearly 300 students with 190 at the secondary school part (Gymnázium), and another 90 at the newly established Primary International Stream.

At the Secondary School, here we go with the graduation exams... and the first real results of the plan above. Pleasant picture, I must say... Satisfactory we feel to see the self-confident graduating students presenting not only stuff they were supposed to memorize, students starting their sentences like "I would especially like to highlight..." or This matter got impressed me the most as it influenced this or that...



Besides seeing such impressive action going on, it is so pleasant to hear words of an independent person, the graduation committee chairperson. Let me quote some of her views: I am really impressed and surprised about how it all works here:

young and capable staff working passionately with their students, In result, there are bright graduating students with a really high level of knowledge supplied with their own experiences, logics, overlaps between different subjects..." Graduates who now speak at least 2 languages fluently. On top of that I proudly add, together with Czech and English, many of them speak fluent Spanish, French or German. Last but not the least, there are several students who had been admitted to the universities even before they graduated at the ISO, both abroad and the in the Czech. Here is the list:

Klára Sabolová - University of Glamorgan, Wales, Developmental Psychology

Vendula Ženatá - University of Georgia, Psychology, U.S.A.

Petr Ustyanovič - Charles University, Prague, Medical Faculty

Monika Kukulová - McGill University, Canada, Film Studies

Žaneta Vu - University of Montana, U.S.A.

Zuzana Šelová - The Hotel School, Hotel Management, The Hague, Netherlands

Dominik Milota - Anglo-American University, Prague, Business Administration

Roman Wilkonský - Fakulta stavební. VUT Brno

Especial Thanks: all teachers who prepared the students so well for their future life

My colleagues Iva Konevalová and Brett Gray sharing all good and bad with me

Class teacher Phil Corkill, the graduates' step father

And the BIGGEST THANK TO MY STEPSISTERS (OR STEPEVERYTHING), my hardworking deputies, Ms. Paličková and Ms. Dobešová who has been suffering all the administration pains with me right since the beginning.

Yes, guys, now the 1st ISO post graduates, there is much you can be proud of. What to say in the end? Let me emphasize we are also very proud of you. You are always welcome back to the school, school which has always strived to give you the best it could. I appreciate if you know, or if you are able to realize in your future life steps, how well you were treated at the 1st ISO. We always tried our best to support you in all your activities, desires, ideas. Surely, not every day was just bright, there were shiny moments in as nothing goes just smoothly in a human life. I believe you understand what I am talking about. I believe you will be able to manage your high self-confidence so that it doesn't outgrow to selfishness...

What I want to emphasize in the end, and I am sure I am speaking now for all my colleagues, the ISO doors will always be open for you to drop in and share what is going on in your lives. We will be always trying to keep in touch with you sending you the basic information etc. We will be happy if you support the school trying to share your experience, opinions and expertise with the students of the next generations. So good luck in your life!

Jan Petrus

Secondary School Principal



YOUTH IN ACTION - DONETSK, UKRAINE

From the 30th April to the 7th of May, 8 students from grade 10, 11 and 12, accompanied by Jana Kotasová and Anthony Bullman, took part in a Copernicus Project International Meeting in Donetsk, Ukraine. The meeting, organized by our friends Olga Borisenko and Sr. Gabrielle McManus, was sponsored by the European Union's Youth in Action Programme.

Along with students from Ireland, Russia and the Ukraine, our 8 students participated in and ran workshops connected to the theme of the meeting - Globalisation. The workshops also involved the sharing of cultures and general presentations about the participants countries.

It wasn't all work and no play however, our Ukrainian hosts treated us to concerts, various tours, a ballet performance and a trip to a working salt mine! A great time was had by all and at the end of the week it was difficult to leave our new friends in Donetsk. The overnight train trip back to Kiev was tiring but fun, with the Irish singing songs for us.

We are very excited about our involvement in the programme and are looking forward to attending the next scheduled meetings in Russia, Italy and Turkey. We are also continuing our preparations to host our own international meeting here in Ostrava! The Ostrava meeting (now rescheduled for September, 2009) will hopefully involve Ireland, Slovakia, Estonia and the Czech Republic. We will be looking for support from parents to host the visiting students and more information about this will come.

A big thanks to the team for their efforts in preparing the workshops and for their cooperation throughout the trip.

You can see a slideshow of photos from our trip here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Cx_1kLPQyk



Education and Culture DG

'Youth in Action' Programme

The Youth in Action Programme aims to encourage young people to be active citizens and to increase their participation in the civic life of their community.

