

1ST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF OSTRAVA

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NEWSLETTER



ROBERT COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE - RCIMUN

It took us half a year of preparation, two school conferences, countless Friday meetings, and a lot of effort and sweat to get ready for what we were looking forward to for so long - the Robert College International Model United Nations (RCIMUN) Conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

Full of expectations of what was to come, we started our journey at 5:00am at the Ostrava Svinov train station. Most of us used the travel time to read the Chair Reports on issues that we were to resolve - the crisis in Sri Lanka, the situation in Georgia, deforestation, disarmament efforts, and many others.

After landing in Istanbul, a guide was waiting in the arrival hall to pick us up and take us to our small cozy hotel right in the middle of the city. It was located on Taksim Square, which was swarming with people day and night.

We were all surprised by the beauty and largeness of the Robert College campus and the school itself. The conference itself went very well. The motto was World Resources: Incitement to Conflict. The opening ceremony really drew us in and we started to absorb the atmosphere of the place. It was a pleasant relaxing start. The next day, we divided into our respectful committees (Political, Disarmament, Environmental, Human Rights, Economic and Social Council, Special Conference on World Resources) and the real fun could begin.

Frankly speaking, being a delegate is no easy task. You are supposed to pay attention the entire conference, wear a suit or uncomfortable high heels for twelve hours a day, and be ready and alert at all times. Eventually, you have to summon the courage to take the floor and

deliver your speech to a hall of eighty people or more, then face the questions and leave the floor gracefully. But there is nothing more satisfying than being praised by your co-delegates that you did a great job defending your resolution and finally seeing it pass. Generally speaking, the more you take part the more you get out of it.

I cannot but elaborate on and admire the way the conference was organized. From the very first moment when each delegation received a booklet with all the necessary materials (everything printed on recycled paper!), to having food and water available at all times, buses to take us to and from the college, a special RCIMUN newspaper issued every day to inform about what happened the previous day, and all the way to the final ceremony, which included a live music performance, picture presentations, and intriguing guests presenting speeches. Everything went smoothly and it was simply a great pleasure to be a part of this event. I did not even mention the party on the boat in the Bosphorus Strait and the professionalism and sternness of the chairs that occasionally had to put the delegates "into order". Last but not least, let me emphasize that the entire conference was run solely by the Robert College students!

In a nutshell, it was a week worth remembering. I would like to say thanks to Gitana for coming with us as an Advisor, being supportive at all times, and having a great deal of patience, since it was a hard week. A big thank you goes to all the delegates as well - there were 12 of us. I am sure that our Turkish experience will motivate us to start preparing and looking forward the next conference!

Janek Petrus



Our RCIMUN delegates

LOOKING FOR NEW DELEGATES TO JOIN ISOMUN

Now that we are back from RCIMUN in Turkey, we are off to a fresh start with our 1st International School of Ostrava Model United Nations Club.

This appeal goes primarily to 10th and 11th grade students, who we hope will become the future core for of the ISOMUN club and will represent the school at conferences abroad.

If interested, talk to either Gitana Chunyo or Janek Petrus (gr. 13) or send us an email and we will provide you with additional information.

We are looking forward to having you on board with ISOMUN!

Janek Petrus, Gitana Chunyo



After two weeks of hard work—An erupting masterpiece!

VOLCANOS AND CAKE FOR YEAR 3 AND 4

Well, another month has gone by in the year three and four classes. Our much anticipated volcano eruptions were most definitely the highlight of the month. Students spent two weeks creating their volcanoes. The volcanoes began as nothing more than a square piece of wood with a mound of chicken-wire. Students were given the liberty to create a paper mache volcano that they would paint and decorate. We also had the pleasure of inviting the year 3 and 4 parents into class to help. We were very grateful for their help as it made the process much more effective and much more pleasurable. Students erupted their self-made volcanoes for the rest of the school and for their parents the last Friday before the Easter holiday.

On Wednesday, April 22—Earth Day—the students took a walk to the park on a mission to clean-up and to colour the footpaths with environmental awareness messages. In the afternoon, students learned about what happens to rubbish after you throw it in the rubbish bin. Do you know what happens to it?

In May, the Year 4 class has their Cake Day. You will not only have the opportunity to buy cake, but there is a buzz going around that sushi will also be available!

We are looking forward to an exciting and eventful month of May.

GREETINGS FROM GRADE SIX

Has it been a month already? The days seem to be going by faster and faster now that spring (or rather summer) has finally arrived. No matter, the Year 6 class is all pumped up and ready to make this last term of school the best one possible.

On Wednesday, April 22 the Year 6 class and the rest of the school set aside some of the school day to celebrate Earth Day. During the morning we went to the park near the river and reflected on the importance of the environment and the world around us. Each student gathered information and drew pictures about the nature found in the park. After returning to school we took these pictures and made Earth Day posters advertising 'Save the Earth' and 'Keep the Earth Clean.' The students found this activity not only fun but very educational. We all share this one little blue marble orbiting in space, so it is all our responsibly to keep it in the best shape possible.

Best wishes from the Year 6 class. Lets make this last term GREAT!!

YEARS 1 AND 2

We hope that everyone had a nice holiday. We all really enjoyed our time off, but we were ready to come back to school. Before break we got to do a lot of fun things to get ready for Easter. The best part was the Easter egg scramble the Friday before our holiday! Each class competed against themselves, to get as many chocolate Easter eggs as they could for their houses. Everyone came out a winner, because we all got to take some of the chocolate home!

This first week back from the holiday has been fun too. We have been getting used to new schedules for term three and starting a new IPC unit on transportation. Wednesday was Earth Day, and every class did something special outside. Years 1 and 2 went to the zoo! We experienced two types of transportation on our trip, a trolley bus and a mini train, and learned about different kinds of animals.

One of the first types of animals we saw were the ponies. They made us laugh, because they kept trying to steal the water bottles out of our backpacks! The big cats were fun to watch, because they were outside and really active. The cheetah liked to growl and show us her teeth. We decided she was trying to protect her cubs from us. Later, we fed the goats. We liked getting to give them food. You are not supposed to feed the animals at the zoo, but the goats are special and it was okay to go in their pen and feed them. The elephants had lunch while we were there too, but we did not feed them. We just watched. The workers at the zoo had just given the elephant a bath and then gave him carrots and potatoes for lunch.



Going to the zoo was a lot of fun. We saw lots of different animals and got to take a break and play in a playground. Miss Cooper went down a slide that looked like an elephant, it was funny! The last thing we did was take the mini train back to the entrance, it looked like a giraffe. By this time, we were very tired and hungry. As much fun as we had, we were ready to go back to school! But we will always remember our trip to the zoo, especially because our classes are going to adopt an animal from the zoo. By donating money, our classes will help the zoo take care of one of our favorite animals. We are adopting a cheetah! You should all go to the zoo and see our adopted cheetah!



At the ZOO!!!

SCIENCE WEEK

Would you believe kids love to come to school during their holidays? The idea of becoming a scientist was very attractive for more than 30 primary school students. They had the chance to do various experiments throughout the week and learn more about science. There were three groups of students, each led by one of the primary school teachers.

Miss Andersen led Group One (year one and two). "We learned about the forces of air in different ways: we made paper airplanes placed paperclips in different parts of the plane to make them fly much longer and steadier. Our balloon rockets gave us a good idea of how much energy air can produce. We made a balloon and fastened a straw on top of it, put a line through the straw and let the air out. This made the balloon fly at high speed along the line. That was great fun! We also made several experiments on the effects of air on ping pong balls. "The Wonders of Magnetism" was a very attractive theme for the students. First we had to discover which objects are magnetic and how magnets react to different things and to each other. Then we made objects consisting of magnets, including magnetic boats, magnetic roads and even magnetic theater. There were so many possibilities! We also planted cress seeds, made salt crystals, and worked with sound and seeing the world through different-colored glasses. All in all I think science week was a great success!" Miss Andersen reports.

Older students learned about forces being "push" or "pull" and had a chance to participate in a competition called "Who can drink the fastest?". Some of them were slow in drinking because, as they found out later on, some of the straws had small holes in them. Another experiment explained how ice melts. Kids observed ice hands melting and predicted what will melt first. Then we spoke about the densities of different liquids and students mixed honey with water and oil, observing how the layers formed. On Thursday we had some experiments that were a little bit magical. In one of them students made water bend using wool and a comb; in another they managed to blow the balls that stuck to the walls through the "magic" of static electricity. The last day was largely biology based. Students planted radishes, cloned plants and learned about how to work with a microscope. They checked whether their hair is smooth and saw salt crystals under the microscope.

Overall, the week was full of sunshine and happiness and I would like to thank Mr. Reeves and Ms. Andersen for their great organization, as well as the secondary school students Alena Králová, Barbora Hrbáčová, Simona Pieranová and Denisa Materová who came to run a special session on science with our students. Another big thank you goes to Mr. Davidík and Ms. Mazurová, who guided them through the process. To finish off the Science Week topic, I asked parents to fill in the questionnaire, so wait for the next newsletter so see the results!

Jana Polanská



Science week involved lots of hands on activities

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear School Community,

Welcome to the May edition of our Newsletter. This is a very special month for all of us, as the school will have its **first-ever Graduating Class**. It seems like just yesterday that our initial group of 16 brave soldiers came for their entrance exams, most of them wide-eyed and wondering whether they could actually succeed at a school that required of them to eat, drink, breath, think and dream in English. Over the past four years it has been a great pleasure to watch the students grow and mature, and take their futures into their own hands. Over the coming few weeks there will be a lot of ups and downs as Žaneta, Mike, Tereza & Tereza, Ingrid, Marcela, Vendula, Adriana, Tom, Klara & Klara, Veronika, Janek, Marketa, Roman, Aneta, Susie, Petr, Hana, Alena, Monika, Dominik and Eva prepare for their leaving exams, and then university entrance exams. The School takes pride in the fact that we already have students that have been accepted to universities in Georgia, Oregon and Washington in the USA, as well as Holland. Some students are still waiting to hear from universities in Canada, Ireland, Italy and the UK. And we'll keep our fingers crossed for those students applying to Czech universities in June! Thank you for all of your hard work! And good luck over the next few weeks!

There are a number of interesting events coming up in May, including the **World Sledge Hockey Championships, Para-Olympic Day, the Graduation Exams, Another Fabulous Cake, Sushi and Sandwich Day, the Oceanographic Exhibition, a Youth for Europe exchange to the Ukraine,** and more!

And, finally, after a long wait, the Education Centre of Ostrava, o.p.s. our partner non-profit organisation that helps fund International Education in Ostrava, as well as Adult Education, has reached an agreement with RPG Real Estate that will allow the Middle School classes to be placed in **four new rooms** across the street on "na Desátem" street. Although I will miss my friends from Years 6-9 next year, I am happy that they will now have the space they need to breathe a little bit!

Have a great month!

Brett Gray



Mr Davidík the popular scientist!

MATHS COMPETITIONS

I would like to congratulate and thank the students of the Middle School because they are very active and have participated in a lot of maths competitions – like the KOKOS competition organized by Gymnázium Bílovec, PYTHAGORIADA and not to forget WORLD MATHS DAY. Congratulations especially to students of Prima - Tomáš Zvolánek and Veronika Šigutová who successfully passed through to the 2nd round of Pythagoriada.

WORLD MATHS DAY 4 March 2009



Uniting the World in Numbers!

On the 4th of March the students of our school took part in an international event called World Maths Day and competed with another 20 000 schools from all around the world. It was a very big and nice surprise for me how well the students of Prima cooperated as a class and managed to be among the top classes. Especially, I would like to congratulate Natalie Válková who had the highest score of the whole school. I hope that next year we are going to score better as a school.

Aggeliki Karsinou
Math Coordinator

MATURITA APPROACHING

It's "Maturita" time! Finally, after nearly four years of hard work, Grade 13 are approaching one of the biggest moments of their lives - their final graduation exams. All students will be examined in English and Czech students will be examined in Czech Language and Literature. The students have already completed the written part of their Czech examination.

The students have had to choose two other subjects to be examined in. These range from Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Biology, to foreign languages such as Spanish, French and German. Some students have also chosen to be examined in Humanities subjects such as History, Geography and Social Science. Apart from the written part of the Czech test, all examinations are done orally in front of a panel of judges.

Grade 13 students will receive their Semester 2 report cards on Thursday 7th of May. This is their last day of class ever! From May 8 to May 17 the students will be on study-vacation. The Graduation exams will be held in the small building May 18 - May 20. We are planning a celebration for them on Thursday 21st May, the day hopefully all of them will receive their Graduation results and diplomas.

Please join me in wishing the Grade 13 students the best of luck.

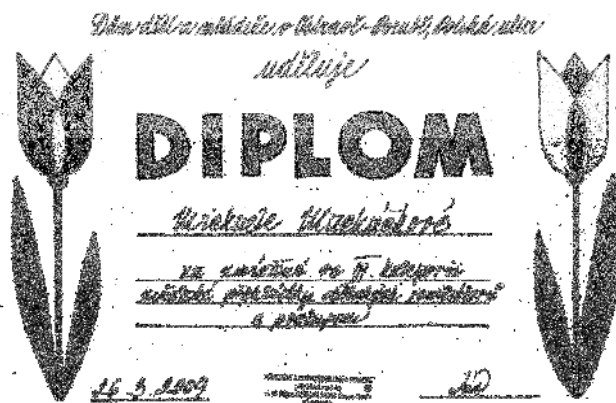
Philip Corkill
Grade 13 Class Teacher

NEWS FROM PRIMA

Did you know that we have a real talent in Prima? Her name is Míša Macháčková. Míša is successfully representing our school in a competition of recitation and I am very proud to share that she has not only won at the city level, but also at the regional level. In May, she is going to compete at the national level. Congratulations Míšo, and good luck in May!



Congratulations to Míša



SOCIAL SCIENCES COMPETITIONS



SPRING DAY FOR EUROPE 2009

Ideas move Europe

I would like to inform you that we are really active in both grade classes as far as competitions and projects go. The biggest news is that both classes got involved in the European Union project called Spring Day for Europe and our school is one of the

5,572 European schools registered in this project. Spring Day for Europe is a project which encourages students to take part in activities that raise awareness of European issues. Both classes have prepared presentations about some problematic issues that they would like to discuss at the EU level. Now we are waiting for a visit from the European Parliament and a big debate.

ALIANTE 2009

A big thanks to Millie and Terka from 10B who successfully passed the 1st level of the international Aliante competition. I am really proud of them because the questions were pretty tough. The girls are now working on the topics of the 2nd level. We are hoping to make it to the International Finals, which will take place at the Division General Stasys Raštikis NCO School and the Lithuanian Great Hetman Jonušas Radvila Training Regiment in Lithuania. 40 teams from around the world will be competing at this competition.



Táňa Micková
Social Sciences Coordinator

ART, MUSIC, DANCE AND OF COURSE, SKIING



Above and left: The extremely creative grade 6 and 7 classes and their beautiful Easter creations



Below: Jewish Dancing in Prima



Exhibition Blažej Baláž: Obsession, University of Ostrava

1960s Czech and Slovak art in the Gallery of Fine Art, Ostrava

SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP – LIENZ, SILLIAN, MATREI, KALS (AUSTRIA)

Just a few days ago, Grade 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 students came home from an amazing trip to Austria. We started on Tuesday the 10th of March at 7.30 a.m. We left the school in a big bus and were traveling for 10 hours. Surprisingly, the tour in the bus actually was not boring - we were talking, eating, listening to music, watching television and, of course, sleeping. We arrived in Austria and it was so good, everything was white and the view of the mountains was fantastic. The next day we went to the slopes and skied from 9.30 to 15.30. After that, we went shopping. In the evening we had a programme including games prepared by different groups. It was really funny. For example, one of the games was that in teams, we should discuss a scene from a film and then play it in front of the others and the other teams had to recognize from which film the scene was. When we came to the last day, we packed our things, went on another ski and snowboard adventure and after skiing, we went to Mc Donald's and ate our dinner there. After dinner we went to the hotel again, packed our things onto the bus, and slowly we were on the way home. The way home to the Czech Republic took more time than the way to Austria; everybody was tired and sleepy. We arrived back in Ostrava on Sunday the 15th of March at 4:46 in the morning and our parents picked us up. This trip will never be forgotten.



SKI TRIP NUMBER 2, 2009

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

“Globalization” Copernicus Project

International Meeting in Donetsk, Ukraine
30/04 – 07/05/2009

A group of 8 students will take part in the international meeting together with students from Ireland, Russia and Ukraine. It is organized by a secondary language school in Donetsk and our beloved Sister of Mercy, Gabrielle McManus. The students will present the Czech Republic, its culture and history and will cooperate in workshops, interactive games and discussions. They will share different cultures and have some nice moments experiencing the town and its surroundings

Teamleaders: Ms. Jana Kotasová and Mr. Anthony Bullman

“Friendship” Copernicus Project

International Meeting in Kaliningrad, Russia
22 – 29/06/2009

A group of 12 students will take part in an international meeting with students from Ireland, Russia and Ukraine. It is organized by Kaliningrad Technical University and our beloved Sister of Mercy, Gabrielle McManus. The students will present the Czech Republic, its culture and history and cooperate in workshops, interactive games and discussions. They will share different cultures and have some nice moments experiencing the town and its surrounding.

Teamleaders: Ms. Jana Kotasová and Mr. Anthony Bullman

“The Ideal Town”

International Meeting in Tortona, Italy
20 – 29/07/2009

A group of 7 students will take place in an international meeting with students from Germany, Cyprus, Portugal, Latvia and Italy. It is organized by the municipal center Comune di Tortona. The main theme of the exchange will be the realisation of an ideal town, a place of civil confidence built together as one group or population according to the reflections, ideas and the necessities founded by the participants during the exchange. All participants will simulate the ideal town using the means of non-formal education like workshops, creative laboratories and games with particular attention to the sub-themes of active participation through voting, to environmental problems and the process of communication.

Teamleader: Ms. Vendula Dobešová

The next projects were submitted by the 1st of April deadline and we have to wait for their official approval by the National Agencies.

“Let’s Make the Environment Look Better”

International Meeting in Izmir, Turkey
29/08/2009 – 06/09/2009

A group of 4 students will take part in an international meeting with students from 4 different countries. Participants will paint the school walls and make mosaics as well as make environmental arrangements around the school. There will be a 1 day trip to the seaside where participants can swim and take a sun bath.

Teamleader: Ms. Veronika Mazurová

MÉTIERS EN EUROPE: Histoire, actualité et développement personnel

Multilateral international Comenius project, 2009 – 2011

The main coordinator of the project is a French school in Nantes. The other partners are Romania, Portugal and Lithuania. All participants will take part in the exchanges in all countries and will work on the main theme of the project – Crafts in Europe. They will prepare public workshops, discussions, excursions and trips and will do some research about the crafts in their countries. The main language used in communication will be French.

Teamleader : Ms. Dagmar Blahetová

“Impact of Photographic Media on Youth”

International Meeting in Ostrava, Czech Republic
25/09 – 02/10/2009

Impacts of Photographic Media on Youth is a project which, through its theme of photographic media, aims to promote awareness and understanding of the impacts and effects that both news and advertising media can have on young people. The 8-day project will involve a total of 44 participants from Ireland, Slovakia, Estonia and the Czech Republic. The project will implement various non-formal learning activities that are staffed by both leaders and the young people themselves. These activities include a group “scavenger hunt” where the participants will be required to work together to complete a number of fun and challenging tasks. Also included are interactive workshops, debates, team building activities, and other social events. A secondary aim of the project is to encourage youth to express their creative energies through the medium of photography – while also having some fun!

Teamleader: Mr. Ivo Helebrant

GRADE 12 UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

Deciding what to do and where to go after school is a very important and difficult decision for the young adults soon to be graduating from our school. Grade 13 is well into this decision process and the Grade 12 students are already showing a lot of enthusiasm about it.

The Grade 12s were recently visited by a representative from Lynn University, Florida who told them a little about student life, living abroad and about Lynn University itself. The students gained some useful information and it was also a reminder to the students that they need to start thinking about where they would like to study after secondary school.

To give the students a little help with this, we are organizing a Grade 12 University Day that will take place towards the end of the school year. The University Day will involve various presentations, workshops and activities that aim to give the students the necessary information and tools they require to begin the process of researching, selecting and applying to the vast number of universities that are available to them. The presentations will include information about studying in the Czech Republic, Europe, Canada, the USA and Australia.

More information about the University Day is to come.



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.

Youth



Education and Culture DG

‘Youth in Action’ Programme