

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A great start to the new school year!

Dear parents, students and staff,
It has been an exciting beginning to the new school year. September 3rd started with an opening ceremony for all parents. It was a chance especially for the new parents to be introduced to the teaching staff, and for the management of the school to outline some of the plans for the coming year and beyond.

It was great to observe how easily our new students fit in with their surroundings. Since the end of June, 60 new pupils have joined us. All together we have more than 280 registered children, from 16 countries. Our staff has grown to over 40 teachers and administrators. Thanks to generous contributions by our corporate partners, we have been able to accelerate the rate at which the school invests in new books, resource materials and equipment. A big thank you to Hyundai and SungWoo for their generous support of resource materials and school activities.



At the end of June, we took over the 1100 volume library of the International School of Olomouc, after it closed its doors for the last time. I would like to express my thanks to School Director Gordon Herbertson and Bang & Olufsen for their support in helping us to acquire these valuable materials.

Brett Gray
Executive Director



Michael, Adam and Marek putting the pieces together again at the 2007 Summer Fun Camp, August 11th to 18th, Velké Karlovice

Who knew chemistry could be so attractive?

The 1st International School of Ostrava took part in the regional chemistry competition "Attractive Chemistry" for secondary school students. The task was to create a poster describing how chemistry is fun, useful and relevant to everyday life. Students had the possibility to work in small groups or on their own. Of the posters we sent in, there were definitely some "dark horses." Bára Švagerová, Monika Kukolová, Denisa Materová, Janek Petrus and Adéla Pavlínková created original and innovative designs and raised the bar for the competition. The Judges awarded two prizes to our school: Bára Švagerová, Bára Malíková and Lukáš Horák in a group effort and Janek Petrus, who worked alone. Congratulations to all!

Lukáš Hartmann
Head of Chemistry



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KINDERGARTEN

Hello from the moles, the mice and the bees!

Dear parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We had a lot of fun getting to know each other in September. It has been a pleasure for us to see how much the children are enjoying Jolly Phonics, and how motivated they are to play and learn together. We were lucky that the weather was quite nice for most of the month. Now we are looking forward to October, and especially Kite Day!

Ivana Psotová

Deputy Headmaster of the Kindergarten

IMPORTANT DATES

- **THURSDAY, October 11th**
Visit to the Puppet Theatre to see a fairy tale performance.
- **Date to be Advised**
Kite Party! The date and time for this event will be put on the noticeboard in the Kindergarten.
- **THURSDAY, October 25th and FRIDAY, October 26th**
AUTUMN HOLIDAYS



PRIMARY SCHOOL

IMPORTANT DATES

- **THURSDAY, October 11th**
Coffee Morning - 8am to 10am. All parents and guardians welcome. Class teachers will advise of further details.
- **THURSDAY, October 18th to FRIDAY, October 19th**
Horní Bečva - Grade 4 and 5.
- **TUESDAY, October 23rd**
Halloween Evening - Walk to Moravsko Slezský Hrad (Castle) in costume. All parents and guardians welcome. The evening will be followed by a sleepover at school.
- **WEDNESDAY, October 24th**
Halloween Fun Day!
- **THURSDAY, October 25th and FRIDAY, October 26th**
AUTUMN HOLIDAYS

Children work with many new materials

Dear students, teachers and parents,

As usual, September got off to a busy start! The children in Year 1 were welcomed to their newly refurbished class rooms on the first floor of the building. Although these youngsters won't be spending so much time with the other classes of the International Stream on the 4th floor, at least they won't have to climb all of those stairs! At the same time, they have been able to benefit from the Jolly Phonics series that we have brought in from England, as well as other books bought from the International School of Olomouc. We are also introducing more books and materials that follow the English National Curriculum, namely the Nelson Thornes English series, Folens Maths and New Star Science from Harcourt. All of these materials will dramatically help students to improve their level in English and the Sciences.

In October, we will be looking forward to several exciting activities, including a visit to the Ostrava Castle and Halloween! Hope to see you at the **coffee morning on October 11th**!

Dagmar Dluhošová
Primary School Headmaster

AUTUMN DAY

On Friday, September 21st the Primary School children celebrated "Autumn Day"!

All children participated in a variety of activities which included; making hedgehog muffins, sports, decorating an Autumn banner, apple print painting, face and arm painting, singing and drama.

Some of the Autumn creations are on display in the hallway on the 4th floor. Please, come and see them!



MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOL

TEXTBOOK TROUBLES?

It is normal for many new Year 10 students to feel overawed by the reading they are expected to do in subjects that are taught in English. The students see the thick American textbooks used here at the International School and after skimming through some pages, they begin to despair – “How will I ever understand all this?”

Students need intermediate level reading skills in English to understand the vocabulary and grammar in the American textbooks without significant difficulty. However, many new students come to the International School with pre-intermediate or even elementary reading skills in English. This is due to the number and quality of English lessons the student has received in primary school.

The graph below shows there is reason to be optimistic. An elementary level Year 10 student, who may have had 200 lessons of English in primary school, will reach the intermediate level needed to read the text in Year 11 (based on 6 English lessons per week). Pre-Intermediate level students with 300 or 400 lessons of English from primary school will reach the Intermediate level even sooner.

Those students whose reading level in English is lower than the intermediate level required to comprehend the textbooks, will no doubt have to work hard in Year 10. However, they should stay positive and remember that each month their English skills will improve, and gradually the reading will become easier. All the teachers at the International School understand these facts and consider it when planning their programs.

Philip Corkill
Head of Humanities

NOTE

With the recent changes made to the Czech primary education system, many children are now having 100 English lessons a year from Year 3. This will mean these students will reach higher levels of English at a younger age.

PAINTBALL!

In mid-October the first paintball event will be arranged. It will be during the afternoon hours, in Slezská Ostrava.

- ▶ Available for all students.
- ▶ Maximum number of students - 30.
- ▶ Price = 300 - 400 CZK
- ▶ Check your emails as info and sign up list will be sent to you.



Ivo Helebrant

New faces among the Middle and Secondary School Staff

Dear Parents,

As the school has grown over the summer, we have brought in several new teachers. Allow me to welcome these new faces:

Anthony Bullman joins us from **Australia**. His main role will be teaching English, but he is also responsible for getting our Newsletter up and running on time!

Jana Polanská joins us after several years at the **Beckfoot School in England**, where she taught mostly sciences to middle school students. Jana will be helping us to further integrate our science program with the British National Curriculum, and eventual IGCSE and A-level testing.

Lucie Krejčí joins us as an English and Spanish teacher. She has worked in **Columbia** and **Northern Ireland**.

Libor Davidík is our new Biology teacher, joining us from Komenský University in **Bratislava, Slovakia**.

Jana Kotasová teaches **Czech** and has three years experience at other schools in the Ostrava region.

I would like to thank them for the professionalism and enthusiasm they have shown as they integrate ever more closely with the school.

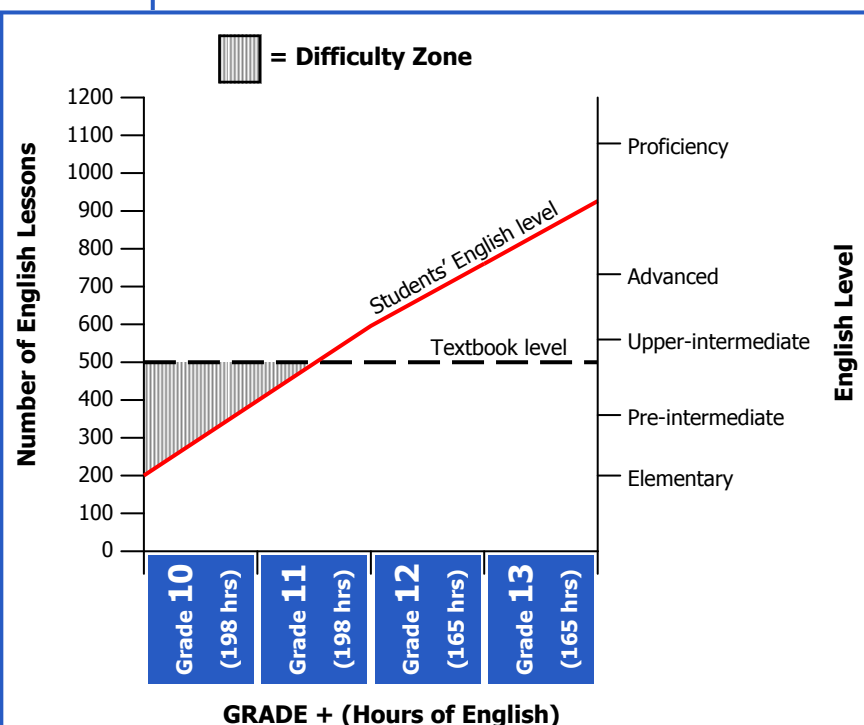
I would also like to say how much I am looking forward to meeting **Jan Melkersson** from our partner school, **Sunnerbögymnasiet, in Ljungby, Sweden**. He will be coming to visit us at the end of October so that we can discuss further exchanges between our students and teachers.

Finally, I would like to encourage all students considering university studies in the US to join the **Fulbright Commission** presentation on October 18th. At a later date, we will organise a trip to their resource centre in Prague.

Have a good October!

Jan Petrus

Headmaster of the Middle and Secondary schools



A FRIENDLY WORD TO THE NEW YEAR 10 STUDENTS

Some people say that you shouldn't look back to the past, but as you know, from the past we can learn lessons that can help us in the future.

We never thought we would feel as small and unskillful as we did on our first day in primary school ever again. But as we walked along the hall of the International School on our first day here, one year ago, we did.

Compared to the advanced Year 11 students, whose English was as good as their Czech, we felt very small. But that was last year and now we are the Year 11 students.

But we remember the first school day in September - some people had fear in their eyes, afraid of the things that come with a new school. Despite this, we created a good name for our class from the beginning and we can say that our class worked like a team. But as one Czech proverb says: "Even the master carpenter may cut off his finger." For us, we both had the same big problem - English.

However, the reason we are here is to improve our English!

Both our stories are similar. We weren't so good in English in primary school. Although we both had excellent grades in English, everything was different here. The new English textbooks made us quite worried. For example in History, our first homework was to read four pages. You may find it unbelievable but it really took us three hours to read those four pages!

Now it is much better - it takes us much less time.

We can tell you that running away isn't the answer. Try to keep your head up and hold on. It's like climbing a ladder - every step is a new level. Remember you're not the only one who has problems and that everybody can give you a hand.

...Don't try to hide in the crowd, here everybody is unique...

Denisa Materová and Petra Bartusková 11 IS - A

ORBIS PICTUS

On Friday, September 21st, grade 6,7 and 9, together with Mrs. Vozňáková and Mr. Helebrant visited a very nice exhibition, 'ORBIS PICTUS' in Opava. It took place in an old church, which heightened the atmosphere of the whole exhibition. Contemporary Czech artists displayed their strange and curious pieces of work. These were interactive works of art that the visitors could get involved with.

The exhibition is inspired by Jan Amos Komenský's book and has been successfully introduced in several Czech towns. It will now be moved to some cities abroad.

The exhibition develops the imagination and vision by means of interactive acoustic, optical and kinetic objects. It incites activity, play, participation and creative perception.



Ivo Helebrant

NATO PILOTS VISIT 1ST ISO

On September 14th, 2007, six NATO pilots and two maintenance crew visited the school to speak with students from Grade 10. The two-hour meeting covered a lot of ground, including descriptions of the various planes and weapons used, as well as difficult questions about how the pilots felt about their jobs. One of the British RAF pilots said "We do everything in our power not to use the weapons that are entrusted to us."



American Pilot Jason E. "Buzzer" Kotles, of the Shaw Airforce Base in Sumter, South Carolina, also attended an International School in Belgium as a young man. He wished the students of the 1st International School of Ostrava the best of luck in their studies, and told them that "the sky's the limit!"

All of the NATO representatives involved participated in the NATO Day Airshow at Ostrava's Leoš Janáček International Airport the following day.



Lucie, Petra and Oskar with NATO pilots and maintenance crew from Britain and Germany

IMPORTANT DATES

- **FRIDAY, October 5th**
"100 Shakespeare" at the puppet theatre - 12A
- **TUESDAY, October 9th**
Coordination meeting with Amnesty International - 15:00
- TUESDAY, October 16th**
TEACHER—PARENT MEETING.
Grade 6,7 and 9: From 16:00 to 17:30
Grade 10, 11 and 12: From 17:30 to 19:00
- **THURSDAY, October 18th**
Visit from The **Fullbright Commission** about possibilities for Studying in the USA - 12A, 11A and 11B
- **WEDNESDAY, October 24th**
Ďáblova Bible (Devil's Bible) in Prague - 11A, 11B and 10B
- **THURSDAY, October 25th and FRIDAY, October 26th**
AUTUMN HOLIDAYS!