

1ST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF OSTRAVA

1/2557 Ostrčilova, Moravská Ostrava 702 00 Czech Republic

www.is-ostrava.cz

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NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear School Community,

It is hard to believe that the first month of the school year is already behind us and that there have been so many interesting events taking place. We are extremely pleased with the growth of both the Bi-lingual Secondary School and the new International Primary School. Together, we now have 260 students registered with the 1st International School of Ostrava, from Reception class at the Primary School to our Year 13 class at the Secondary School – the first graduates in the short history of our school!

The management of the school would like to extend a special thanks to all of our fabulous staff, and to especially welcome our new teachers from Canada, the US, Denmark and the Czech Republic.

Since June, we have become a member of the Council of International Schools and are enthusiastically working through the process of applying to the International Baccalaureate Organisation. We will keep you up to date on those developments.

Brett Gray
Executive Director

AWESOME ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to our students who were brave enough to tackle the IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) tests this June in Prague.

To sit the IGCSEs is an achievement in itself, but to take English as a First Language at this level is something else. Amazing results – well done, lads! we are proud of you!



Our IGCSE Champions – Štěpán Ochodek, Štěpán Cvik and Adam Mohammad

PARENTS' CLUB

What is the Parents' Club? The Parents' Club is a group of parents who meet twice a week to support the 1st International School of Ostrava. We meet every Tuesday and Friday at 8:30am on the ground floor of Dum Děti. For the past few weeks, we worked on creating posters for all the classrooms to help with tracking teams' progress. There are four teams and they are made up of different students from each classroom. Therefore, we created 28 posters in all. This provided more time for the teachers to focus on teaching our children.

This past Tuesday, we had a bake sale where our parents baked goodies and brought them to school to be sold. We raised 2241 kc for our school. This month's fundraiser will be used to purchase items for the reception class. Each month we will have these and each time the money will be used for a different classroom.

We want to invite all the parents to help with this because the more we bake, the more items we can purchase for the classrooms. The next bake sale will be posted on the parents' bulletin board across from the principal's office. Be watching for the date, time and location.

Also, the parents' club will take numerous day trips during the school year. These trips will be during the school day so you don't have to be concerned with finding childcare. Our first trip will be to Opava on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. We will leave the school at 9:15am and return before 2pm. This will give us ample time to retrieve our children. We would like for all the parents to join us; so, could you please sign your name on the bulletin board? This will help us determine the number of vehicles that are needed.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and/or trips.

Cathy Ray



Some of our hardworking Parents

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Hangin' out with the Canadian skaters at ČEZ Arena

WORLD JUNIOR FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The grade 5 and 6 classes attended the World Junior Skating Championships held in Ostrava on September 19th. The classes have been studying countries from around the world and this was an exceptional opportunity to apply what they had been studying.

There were over 20 countries represented as witnessed by the variety of flags hanging in the ČEZ Arena. Students were able to watch world class skaters utilize their years of training as they sought the world championship title.

The students were also fortunate to meet a couple of the Canadian skaters (see photo). These two role models exemplified how we need to focus and persevere if we want to reach our goals.

Erin Blair

GRADE 5

In Year 5 we have been studying our home country and our host country, as part of the IPC (International Primary Curriculum).

We are learning lots of things about different cultures and traditions from each other as we are lucky enough to have seven nationalities in our class.

One of the most enjoyable activities we have had so far has been looking at currencies from around the world. Thank you to the parents who have been kind enough to allow their children to bring money from home.

We look forward to learning more about the wonderful places in our world.

Sandra Smith & Year 5 students.



Learning about World currencies

GRADE 3 UPDATE

September has been very busy in the year three classroom. We have spent a lot of time getting to know each other and really sharing our international experiences. Together with Mr. Reeves' Year 4 class we have also started our exciting unit on airports. We look forward to our class trip in October, where we will be visiting the Ostrava Airport to experience the inner-workings of a fully functioning airport.

Kaitlin Kemp



Those Grade 3 kids are a funny bunch

A BIG THANK YOU TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

It has been an incredibly busy and rewarding month of school. Not long ago, many of your children made their first small steps in formal education. We would like to thank our parents for their active participation in the creation of the atmosphere at school. Our Parents' Club Bake Sale was a big hit with the students and has allowed us to buy some new resources for the Reception Class with the proceeds that were generated.

Those long-awaited books and uniforms are finally rolling in, and the new dining hall is scheduled to open in the next few days! I hope you enjoy reading about some of the things we have been up to since school started. We hope you enjoy!

Jana Polanská

International Primary School Vice-Principal

A LOVE OF MUSIC

My name is Miss Andersen, and I am the music teacher at the 1st International School of Ostrava.

In key stage 1 I focus a lot on movement to music. We dance to "Oh boogie woogie woogie" and "A leta go go" and use our hands when we sing: "The itsy bitsy spider" the "finger song" or "I'm a Tiny Winy Bird". You can ask your children to show you the songs and dance.

In key stage 2 we also dance, but sing more difficult songs like gospel and more rhythmic songs. I try to teach the students rhythm and keeping the beat. Through the songs we sing, I teach music history and the bibliography of different artists or groups of musicians. I love music and hope to give the students an insight to the world of music, and hopefully they will feel the joy that music can bring.

RECEPTION CLASS ARTWORK

RECEPTION CLASS

I would like to present two self-portraits which were painted by So Young Park (4) and Emiliana Bodu (4). I'm sure you'll enjoy them. — Štěpánka Hausková



SPORTS

SLOW-PITCH WITH OSTRAVA ARROWS

On Sunday 14 September our school participated in the Silesian Region Invitational slow-pitch tournament. Our great team was supposed to meet early in the morning in front of the Arrows baseball club, Ostrava-Poruba, but unfortunately, all the teachers were late!

Our first match was against a very strong team, but we played really well. We held the lead until the game was 9:2 to us, but unfortunately our uncoordinated team made some mistakes and our opponents started to play better and in the end we lost the match.

Our disappointment from the first match was thrown away and we lined up with courage to beat our next opponent. We played bravely and thanks to Brett's homeruns, we won. The whole team gave it their all.

Later, there were a series of matches in which we played against experienced teams composed of ex-players. Even Mr. Hartmann's fabulous slides and Ms. Micková's great catches didn't help us to win these matches.

During the break, we got new powers and we prepared for our penultimate match. Again, we showed our skills; Brett destroyed the homerun fences and Mr. Helebrant showed perfect runs. Unfortunately, one of our best players, Mr. Petrus, had to go away but we got a mighty replacement – Ms. Mazurová. In the end there was no chance to lose and we won with a great lead.

In our last match, we were so tired and chilled by the freezing weather that not even our team experiences and determination could save us. Our professional opponents won and we were all happy that we survived the day.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon we witnessed a baseball match between Ostrava Arrows and Brno Technika. The Arrows won 10:2 with help from Mike Griffin and we also saw a homerun.

Our team was composed of – Brett Gray, Mr. Petrus, Mr. Hartmann, Mr. Helebrant, Ms. Micková, Ms. Mazurová, Iva Štverková, Jan Petrus, Matěj Vehovský, Ondřej Mynář and Lukáš Horák, we can't forget our head photographer Ms. Dobešová and our two fans Mr. Corkill and Mrs. Griffin.

Even though we all woke up in great pain, we are all looking forward to another tournament!

Iva Štverková and Matěj Vehovský

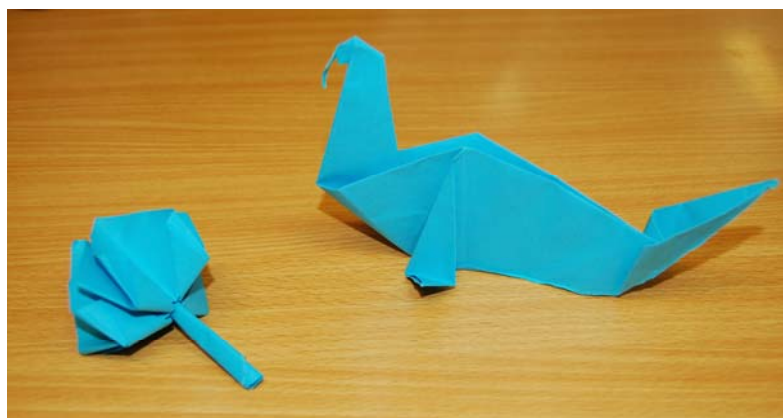
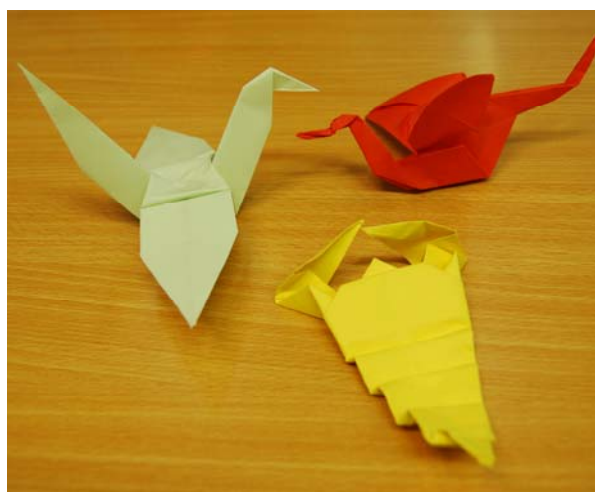


What a team!



Iva and Janek getting into the spirit of the game

Some interesting creations from Art Class



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ELECTED PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS

Grade	President	Vice President
6A	Hyo Bum LEE	Linh Dieu HOANG
7A	Mathias Wingaa	Karolína Kolářová
8A	Michaela Polmanová	Hai Dinhová
10A	David Polman	Himadri Pathak
10B	Tereza Krátká	Michaela Tranová
11A	Iva Šterková	Lucie Horníková
11B	Ondřej Mynář	Matěj Vehovský
12A	Petra Koblížková	Markéta Kubinová
12B	Štěpán Ochodek	Hana Glisníková
13A	Aneta Triandafilu	Michal Šafarčík
13B	Dominik Milota	Roman Wilkonský

CAKE DAY

As you may already know, on September 23 the parents' club in our school hosted its first Cake Day!

The mothers from the International Primary School prepared a lot of sweets and cakes that then went on sale!

The main aim of this day was to gain some money to buy toys for the younger children at our school. The day was a lot of fun and everybody enjoyed it. We collected much more money than we expected!

Lucie Vehovská and Tereza Dobešová



There were a great variety of cakes!



And they were really tasty!

SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear students, parents and staff,

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the entire school community for your continued support as we move from strength to strength. In just three short years, our secondary school has grown from 16 students to over 170, and we are looking forward to having our first-ever graduating class in May, 2009. It seems like just yesterday that we opened the school, and I am endlessly surprised and impressed by the abilities and accomplishments of our students and staff. As you will read here, in just the past few weeks, we have had students participate in a **Model United Nations Conference** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**. Another group has just returned from an exchange in **Belorussia**, entitled Education, Today and Tomorrow, organised through the **European Union's Youth in Action Programme**.

We also received the results of our students who did the **British IGCSE exams**. All finished above average in comparison to results in the United Kingdom! Special thanks to Sandra Smith who led the team.

Over the coming weeks, we will be organising several meetings with the students to further the Model UN programme, and organise our own Youth in Action Exchange here in Ostrava next spring. And there is a lot more to look forward to! This year promises to be the best ever.

Jan Petrus
Secondary School Principal



They made great snacks for our hardworking teachers!

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF DOCUMENTARY FILM 2008

Two of our Senior Grade 13 students, Monika Kukolová and Vendula Ženatá, were selected together with other students from Slovakia, Poland, Romania and Estonia, for the project *Jeden Svět na Školách* to participate in the International Documentary Holiday School in Buková. Here is their report...

Opening credits. A medium-sized group of people is getting out of a bus in a small south-Bohemian village Bukova. Cut. These individuals are now divided into four national teams. Title of the film: **International School of Documentary Film 2008**. The camera is following one of the organizers of this event. She is wearing a logo of One World Film Clubs on her T-shirt. Cut. Medium close-up on the line-up of instructors, most of whom are FAMU students and graduates, taking turns to introduce themselves. On a black screen appears a name: Lucie Kralova, the director of a detective documentary *Lost Holiday*. It is she, who is going to advise these inexperienced young people on how to make a captivating documentary film. Cut. Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, and Estonians (all wet to the skin) are looking for ideas in the village because the next day they will shoot their own film. Final scene: each film crew is rewarded with great applause from both local people and professionals. Happy end.

Screenwriters: Monika Kukolova, Vendula Zenata

KLIMUN 2008 - KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur was the location of the fabulous second international Model United Nations conference that nine students and Ms. Gitana Chunyo attended. Five days of active debating, negotiating, compromising, and solution-seeking brought out the best in all the participants. Delegates participated in the General Assembly and International Court of Justice, in the former, defending resolutions they had written themselves; in the latter either watching, judging, or trying to win the trial as members of the disputing nations. Various topics concerning the whole planet were discussed, including desertification, disposal of nuclear waste, enhancing the quality of life in the third-world countries, or seeking alternative sources of energy. Having had a lot of fun throughout the whole conference, the participants came back full of new experiences and inspired to set up the 1st ISO Model United Nations Club, which was founded recently, with David Kuděla and Tomáš Nožka as president and vice president and Janek Petrus and Adam Mohammed as Secretaries.

Said about the conference:

"KLIMUN was a great opportunity to learn something about the United Nations and try how hard it is to be a diplomat and defend the interests of your country. It was also a chance to meet a lot of people and visit places you might not be able to visit again. Actually, KLIMUN outdid all my expectations and it was a really good decision to go there. I would recommend everyone to go there next year, because you will remember it for the rest of your lives."

Adam Mohammad

"Malaysia was an eye-opening experience, both in terms of the conference and Malaysian culture."

Tomáš Nožka

"It is amazing how a few days in a different country could be rewarding. My 10 days in Malaysia were the best part of my whole summer. The conference was on a very high level and I felt very important to be part of it. What struck me the most was the incredibly high academic preparation of the other participants in the KLIMUN 2008. That was a big challenge and it forced me to put down some serious effort so my knowledge and performance could compete with theirs. Frankly, for me the KLIMUN '08 in Malaysia was an unbelievable experience and I definitely want to continue playing a little "delegate"."

David Kuděla

1st ISO Delegates:

Ms. Gitana D. Chunyo (trip leader, Russia); Tomáš Nožka (ambassador, Russia); David Kuděla (Russia); Kateřina Hájková (Russia); Jakub Miarka (Russia); Jan Petrus (ambassador, Czech Republic); Markéta Kubinová (Czech Republic); Dominik Milota (Czech Republic); Adéla Pavlínková (Czech Republic); Adam Mohammed (Czech Republic).

A big thanks to all the delegates.

Jan Petrus, Jr.



A shot from KLIMUN 2008

GREETINGS FROM BELLINGHAM!

It's been almost two months now since I came to the US for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program. The first week I spent in Washington DC, where all the teachers met for an orientation program. We met our exchange partners and had some very useful sessions about the culture and school system here in America. Then we took off for the Northwest.

The first month was really great. The start of school was far away and we could just explore the town and its surroundings. The mountains, coast, islands and bays around are really nice. The town is about the size of Opava I would say. It has three high schools, I'm teaching in one of them that's called Squalicum.

The location of the school building is beautiful. It is on a hill with nice views of the city and mountains in British Columbia, Canada. Yes, Canada is very close, about 40 miles drive north from here. The school is big and the classes are also bigger than at ISO. The first weeks have been really quite challenging for me. I can't say I have much free time these days.

Anyway I knew that the beginning would be hard so hopefully it will soon get better. Will keep you updated.

All the best

Martin Vlcek



2007-2008 Teacher of the year - Martin Vlcek

DUKOVANY EXCURSION

On Tuesday September 16, participants in grade 13's Science Seminar joined all of grade 12 on an excursion to the nuclear power station in Dukovany for a tour around the nuclear power station's visitor's centre. The students had the opportunity to watch an introductory film about nuclear energy and were then guided around exhibits representing the facilities of the nuclear station. Through interactive activities they learnt how a nuclear reactor works as well as where and how nuclear waste is stored. Also, by measuring the radioactivity of different materials, they learnt that radioactivity is everywhere around us. At the end we hope that students were able to examine the arguments for the safety, usefulness, and environmental friendliness of nuclear reactors.

And now some students' comments:

"It was fine. One thing which I did not like was the long way by bus. However, the excursion to Dukovany was interesting and nice."
Denisa Materová

"My feelings are mixed. The bus trip was too long. Frankly speaking, I expected more from the excursion, I thought that the guides would allow us in the plant itself. It was not bad but nothing special."
Tomáš Večerek

YOUTH IN ACTION - MINSK, BELARUS

From the 22nd to the 29th of September, 7 students from grade 10 and 11, accompanied by Jana Kotasová and Anthony Bullman, took part in a Copernicus Project International Meeting in Minsk, Belarus. The meeting was sponsored by the European Union's Youth in Action Programme.

Along with students from Ireland, Russia, Belorussia and the Ukraine, our 7 girls participated in and ran workshops connected to the theme of the meeting - Education, Today and Tomorrow. 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 Belarusian hosts treated us to concerts, various tours, a ballet performance and a trip to the circus! A great time was had by all and at the end of the week it was difficult to leave our new friends in Minsk.

We are very excited about our involvement in the programme and are looking forward to attending the next scheduled meetings in the Ukraine and Russia. We are also making preparations to host our own international meeting here in Ostrava! The Ostrava meeting (scheduled for April, 2009) will hopefully involve Ireland, Italy, 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 7 girls 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=RKXQ1BHoxE>

For more information about the *Youth in Action* Programme, visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm



'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.



Team Czech Republic — Jana, Barča, Terka,Radka, Lucy, Aneta and Betty



Outside the War Museum with participants from Ireland, Russia, Belorussia and the Ukraine.