

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

## From the Executive Director's desk...



I want to thank those of you who participated in the CEESA Conference in Prague. Prague provided a great backdrop for an amazing event filled with learning and collaboration.

The success of the conference was due to the creative and efficient efforts of the leadership in Prague, the total dedication to excellence by the CEESA Team and the insightful speakers who challenged and inspired us to learn about new ideas, innovative educational programs and strategies.

I want to especially thank the educators who provided more than 30 workshops showcasing their schools and efforts to “Reinvent” programs. Your sharing helps foster learning and create relationships for future collaborative efforts to improve programs.

I have heard from many schools about how they have taken the learning back to their colleagues. Some have created transformative actions plans just in the last two weeks. I hope all of you had at least one take away idea that you will consider exploring. How will you implement similar programs in your classrooms and school? Please keep sharing your successes, challenges, questions and other ideas.

Our CEESA Celebration at the Lobkowitz Palace was a magical night to remember! Our great thanks goes to William Lobkowitz and his wife Alexandra for his generosity in helping the evening be elegant and fun.

We are already making plans for the 2014 CEESA Conference in Vienna. Mark your calendars for March 13-15, 2014. Start thinking of programs you want to share that will inspire others to “Transform Curriculum Through Collaboration.”

There are other exciting things going on in CEESA. Please enjoy reading about some of the things that are happening around the region that are transforming education through collaboration.

Kathy

*CEESA would like to recognize Bisera Djundeva  
of NOVA International Schools in Skopje for her  
Honorable Fifth Place in the  
Margaret Sanders Foundation Award Program.  
Congratulations Bisera!*

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

## The Evolution of International School of Estonia's 1:1 iPad Project

The idea of technology in the classroom is often considered a hot topic of conversation around teachers. Should children be distracted by shiny trinkets and expensive gadgets or should they be taught to appreciate the classical, time-tested approaches to learning of pen and paper, books and libraries? The International School of Estonia made the decision to create a 1 to 1 iPad learning environment, and put an iPad in the hands of every student and teacher in the school. This raised the usual array of questions one would expect from teachers and parents alike: who's paying for it? What use will they actually be? Will my child ever learn to write with a pen again?

There are many ways to address the questions asked about an undertaking such as this, but ISE leadership took the initiative and decided to just address the problems as they came along; we would find a way to make it work! A working group was put together to discuss the finer details of the project. This included discussions about cost, responsibilities of the students, trainings and workshops, etc.

Around 30 iPads were sourced from a local dealer at a reasonable price and were handed out to a room full of teachers either grinning like a Cheshire cat or looking horrified at the expectation of another new piece of technology they were being asked to master. ISE's librarian, Kadri Tomson waded through the process of bar coding each iPad and checking it out as if it were a library book, which entailed recording individual serial numbers and logging them into the library database. She would later do this for every student iPad also. But it wasn't long before groups of teachers could be found chattering away in small groups, huddled over the glow of an iPad screen sharing a plethora of apps.

Once the staff had some time to master their iPads over the summer months, which due to the simplicity and usability of tablet technology didn't take long, we were ready to address the needs of the students. The first hurdle came in the form of a contract. The wording of this contract was reworked and reworked. Internet security and cyber safety was discussed. After communicating this to the parents in our school community, we were ready to pilot the use of iPads with our grade 2, grade 5, and grade 12 students. By the second week of January, every student in the school had their own personal use of a school iPad.

The uses for the iPad in the classroom are as varied as the students who use them. From interactive reading books and handwriting practice apps in the pre-school to logical thinking games and math activities in the primary school, all the way up to interactive text books and video capture software for physics lessons in the upper school. The uses for technology in the classroom are hard to deny once you have actually experienced it. There are hurdles and problems arising daily, but solutions can always be found and the benefits to the students are clear to



see. When an 8 year old tells you that there is an app for the topic you are studying and the excitement it can generate in your classroom, it makes all the meetings and contract rewording sessions seem worthwhile.

To date, the school has issued around 30 iPads to its staff and around 135 to students with little problem. In a project like this, it is important to be flexible and willing, find your inner geek and embrace the future. We live in a world dominated by the information super highway and we have a duty to ensure our students are ready to enter that world. Besides, most teenagers know more than us already (sic!).

Tim Shepherd  
Grade 2 Teacher, iPad Coordinator  
MAP Coordinator

---

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

## CEESA's Strategic Plan

### CORE VALUES

CEESA believes:

- All people deserve to be treated fairly and with compassion and respect
- People have a responsibility to themselves and to the community
- People thrive in a supportive environment of learning and joy

### MISSION

CEESA is a collaborative community of international schools, which enhances school effectiveness and inspires student learning and development.

### VISION

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- CEESA schools are engaged in initiatives focused on educational transformation
- CEESA programs inspire students to learn and develop holistically

### STRATEGIES

- CEESA will cultivate leadership capacity in order to inspire transformation
- CEESA will be a catalyst for the effective use of technology in support of educational transformation
- CEESA will employ effective practices, which support financial sustainability

## Making Thinking Visible At The International School of Prague

A central part of our school mission states: "ISP Empowers learners to think creatively and critically".

Our Elementary School has been realizing this by focusing on "making thinking visible", with many teachers taking online courses and taking part in workshops and conferences on Visible Thinking.

Visible Thinking is a flexible and systematic research-based approach to integrating the development of students' thinking with content learning across subject matters. An extensive and adaptable collection of practices, Visible Thinking has a double goal: on the one hand, to cultivate students' thinking skills and dispositions, and, on the other, to deepen content learning. By thinking dispositions, we mean curiosity, concern for truth and understanding, a creative mindset, not just being skilled but also alert to thinking and learning opportunities and eager to take them

### Why do we do this?

"At the core of Visible Thinking are practices that help make thinking visible: Thinking Routines loosely guide learners' thought processes and encourage active processing. They are short, easy-to-learn, mini-strategies that extend and deepen students' thinking and become part of the fabric of everyday classroom life."

[http://pzweb.harvard.edu/vt/VisibleThinking\\_html\\_files/VisibleThinking1.html](http://pzweb.harvard.edu/vt/VisibleThinking_html_files/VisibleThinking1.html)

### Visible Thinking and the Units of Inquiry

There is a powerful (and visible) relationship between thinking routines and inquiry work. Thinking routines become a familiar strategy or tool for learners to use while engaged in an inquiry learning experience. They engage, first in individual thinking then continue to scaffold their own thinking over time. Sharing thinking in a group dialogue is an important component for learners to sift through information and to gather new information in order to go deeper with their initial, individual thinking. Learners also begin to make connections to others' thinking and to the classroom research. Through processing and on-going reflection, learners are able to extend or revise their initial thinking while simultaneously documenting their learning! This documentation is used throughout the units of inquiry to aid in reflection as well as provide learners with evidence of learning for their student portfolio.

From the teacher perspective, we see how thinking routines and our inquiry model go hand-in-hand. Using these routines as tools, the children become accustomed to exploring their thinking in multiple venues for meaningful inquiry work. In May 2012, we attended the Cultures of Thinking conference in Amsterdam. We were able to take some of our work using thinking routines to share with other teachers. It was very meaningful to share this work and to make connections with other teachers. Together we reflected on the routines we have been using in our classrooms, shared our struggles and celebrated the success our learners have had using thinking routines.

*(To be continued on page 4)*

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

*(Continued from page 3, "Making Thinking Visible At The International School of Prague")*

There was a collaborative feeling that the work we are doing with our learners is not only valuable and meaningful, but it is the key to creating a culture of thinkers! Visible thinking routines allow the creative thinking process to unfold in a very natural way.

**How does look in practice?**



*Compass Points: A routine for sharing thinking, wondering, suggestions and worries.*



*"Think, Puzzle, Explore": What type of seeds are these? (Documenting our research and thinking for student portfolio and evidence of learning)*



*"See, Think, Wonder": A routine for connecting observations and initial thinking to find our wondering and further our thinking. Sharing our thinking and learning with parents!*



*"Think, Puzzle, Explore": A routine for thinking and hands-on research.*

The authors of this article, Allison and Nikki, have presented a workshop at the CEESA conference in March on: Creating a Culture of Thinking and the Creative and Critical Thinking aspect of our school mission

Allison Bryan, Kindergarten Teacher and Grade Team Leader and Nikki Hume, Kindergarten Teacher and Social Studies CTL



*Chalk Talk: A routine for reflective thinking and documenting learning.*

# CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

## CEESA EVENT CALENDER 2012-2013, cont.

### April 2013

- 3-6 **CEESA's Counselors' retreat in Bucharest**
- 24-28 **HS Combined Choir/Band in Prague**
- 25-28 **MS Cultural Arts in Moscow**
- 27 **Building Teacher Leaders in Vienna**

### May 2013

- 2 **Spring EC Meeting in Tashkent**
- 3-4 **Spring BOD Meeting in Tashkent**
- 9-12 **Blue League** MS Girls Volleyball in Riga
- 9-12 **Blue League** MS Boys Volleyball in Helsinki
- 9-12 **Red League** MS Girls Volleyball in Prague
- 9-12 **Red League** MS Boys Volleyball in Warsaw
- 9-12 **MS Girls Softball in Bucharest**
- 9-12 **MS Boys Softball in Prague**
- 16-19 **HS Girls-Tennis in Istanbul**
- 16-19 **HS Boys-Tennis in Istanbul**
- 16-19 **Red League** HS Boys Volleyball in Moscow
- 16-19 **Red League** HS Girls Volleyball in Kiev
- 16-19 **Red League** HS Boys JV Volleyball in Moscow
- 16-19 **Red League** HS Girls JV Volleyball in Kiev
- 16-19 **Blue League** HS Boys Volleyball in Sofia
- 16-19 **Blue League** HS Girls Volleyball in Belgrade
- 16-19 **HS Girls Softball in Budapest**
- 16-19 **HS Boys Softball in Budapest**

## Unique Community Event at the American International School of Vienna

In December, after years of deliberation and planning AIS Vienna opened a newly renovated theater with a unique event for the whole community. On Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> the Art-a-thon and Winter Fair captured the attention of every member of the school and local community. Over the course of the whole day the arts department basically held an open house in the theater with all musicians and actors from ES to HS performing with parents, friends and fans having the opportunity to come and go as they choose.

In the gym the Parent Teacher Forum had set up a Christmas market with booths selling hand made goods from members of the community. There was a Christmas tree in the middle of the gym, Christmas music playing, and tons of other



activities set up. Linking the theater to the gym our "Hall of Flags" was filled with food booths selling all kinds of meals and Christmas treats. With so many different things going on during the whole day it took a great deal of organization between the different groups however, in the end it was a fantastic event where every member of the community felt as one for the day. Many thanks to our arts department together and the Parent Teacher Forum - we are looking forward to next year already!

Nick DeForest  
CEESA Rep, Assistant Director of Athletics, Activities and Events

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

## CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

### Anglo-American School of Moscow Hosts Learning Institute for CEESA Special Educators

Dr. Maryjane Burdge, special education director and consultant from West Bend, Wisconsin, will facilitate a two-day hands-on workshop for special educators to refine skills and share strategies in writing goals and measuring student learning progress (assessment), supporting classroom interventions (RtI strategies), and increasing positive behavior support strategies.

This workshop will allow AAS teachers and other CEESA special educators to collaboratively fine-tune their practices for improving student achievement. The two days will include collaborative work on developing appropriate ILPs – goal writing, measuring progress, and selecting support strategies – as well as celebration together with an outing and dinner at Red Square – one of the most distinctive historic spots in Eastern Europe.

### Curriculum is Everything

Transforming education is neither quick nor easy, but it's the on-going work at Anglo-American School of Moscow. Now in year 2 of a dynamic strategic plan to support and empower each student to achieve individual, academic and holistic excellence, AAS is fully committed to making personalized learning a reality. Two full days of learning in October 2012 with Bill and Ochan Powell helped lay the understanding that the key to personalizing learning is first knowing the curriculum.

Building on this shared understanding, and showing commitment to making personalized learning a reality, AAS has engaged Marzano Research Laboratory associate, Laurie Robinson, to work in an on-going partnership with teachers and administration. Keeping student learning at the heart of it all, leadership teams and subject-area teams are embarking on a journey to build collaborative cultures, accurate assessment and quality instruction. There is much to know and be able to do in order to effectively and systematically do this work well and deep, so AAS is embracing the mantra, "Go slow to go fast."

K-12 English Language Arts representatives, for example, are meeting regularly as a professional learning community to learn about the instructional shifts intended in the recently adopted Common Core State Standards. Ensuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum for students based on these new standards is not happening by chance. With an intentional focus on student learning, our teachers are focusing on clarifying the essential learning for students. Going through the process of unpacking these priority standards, teachers are learning what expectations the standards really hold for teachers and kids. As a result, teachers are able to share clear learning targets that any student can hit. Next steps for this group involve revising, creating, and aligning assessment as certifiable evidence of what students have learned.

It's this on-going and important work, driven by the school mission, which brings AAS educators one step closer to being able to personalize learning in order to ensure that every student

at AAS-Moscow achieves individual academic and holistic excellence.

Peggy Smith, PhD,  
CEESA Rep, Director of Curriculum

.....

### Christmas Good Cheer and Onwards into 2013 at the American School of Warsaw

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 The American School of Warsaw hosted an Annual Charity Concert in support of children from the Refugee Center in Linin. The concert began with ASW students playing works by Fryderyk Chopin, Joseph Hayden and Ignacy Paderewski. Urszyla Piwnicka, a famous Polish opera singer and Maksym Rzeminski, a parent, performed songs from operas by Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi, Berdich Smetana and Pyotr Tcchajkovsky. More than 4,000 PLN was collected by selling tickets for this event. The proceeds went on buying diapers for babies at the refugee Center. The Center has been a partner with ASW for many years. At present, many of the families who reside there are mainly from Chechnya. ASW students meet with the children on a regular basis.

During the holiday season a great many ASW students, parents and teachers participated in the 'Families in Crisis' project in cooperation with the Warsaw Volunteer Mission. A large amount of clothing and hygienic items were donated by the ASW community. Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students organized a bake sale; MS Student Council sold cotton candy.

*(To be continued on page 7)*

# CEESA Newsletter

## CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

*(Continued from page 6, "Christmas Good Cheer and Onwards into 2013 at the American School of Warsaw")*



and our MS and HS students, Vedka Luthra and Kenji Asakura organized a Movie Night. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade students made and sold Holiday decorations during the Christmas Bazaar. The students spent the money earned in a nearby shopping mall buying goods for the families they decided to support.

Thanks to our community's generosity 76 children from needy families received Christmas gifts. 17 single mothers who struggle to make ends meet received food and other basic items. The Warsaw Volunteer Mission (<http://en.wvm.org.pl>) has been a partner of ASW since 2010. It is a non-profit charity organization whose purpose is to provide material and

emotional help to those in need. Among MVM recipients are orphanages, hospitals, correction facilities, and indigent families whose members struggle with traumatic circumstances.

The 7<sup>th</sup> graders at ASW are continuing with supporting families in need. They are soon putting on a homelessness "expo" to create awareness of the plight of families in need and plan more projects to help such families in the future.

Zofia Skoczylas  
(ASW Teachers' CEESA Rep.)

## NOVA International School has Angels on the Ground

It was heartwarming to see our NOVA students host an Angel Tree Party for our guests with Down's syndrome during this holiday season. The NOVA Center for Differentiated Learning, led by Ms. Rosica Koleva, a teacher and advocate of inclusion, threw quite a party!

NOVA fourth graders started off with a series of team building games, where everyone had fun with beanbags, balls and a parachute. Then our fifth graders performed their dance routine from the "Forest Fairy Tale", an encore of this year's highly acclaimed Christmas Show held at the Macedonian National Opera and Ballet.

These activities were followed by some wonderful and moving performances by our guests. We were delighted to hear children and young adults with Down's syndrome recite their poetry, dance to original choreographies, and share a power point biography. The graphics of a skillful computer artist were also displayed.

Next, NOVA parents and teachers took things up a notch by inviting everyone for a Zumba session. The spacious main hall was filled with the rhythms, smiles and flowing movements of both children and adults dancing together. Finally, the high school student council band topped things off with a rousing set of popular pop songs. Later, the band invited our guests to join them for a Karaoke jam session.

*(Continued on page 8)*

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

## CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

(Continued from page 7, "NOVA International School has Angels on the Ground")

This was more than just a party; it was also a fundraiser for the Pediatric Clinic Oncology Ward at the local hospital, where some NOVA high school students volunteer. The artwork and books of poetry created by our guests were sold out!



The event was a huge success. It ran over the allotted time, as all great parties should. The response from our community was so overwhelmingly positive that we can't wait to organize a similar event again. It was the first time for most of our Down's syndrome angels and their families to visit NOVA. They had a good time, made some new friends and promised to come back soon

Ivan Novakovski  
CEESA Rep, Business Manager

---

### Tashkent International School Varsity Boys' and Girls' Football Teams Take First Place at Tournament

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan** - It was a double victory weekend for the football Owls from Tashkent International School at the Central Asian Soccer Classic (CASC) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, October 18-20, 2012. The TIS varsity boys' and girls' teams each brought home first place at the annual tournament.

This is the second consecutive year the girls have won gold at the CASC and the second time in four years for the TIS boys. In 2010 both teams enjoyed first place victories at the Silk Road Activities Association in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The girls' team ended the 2012 CASC tournament with one tie and five wins, the only unbeaten team during the group stage. The CASC featured teams

from five international schools in Central Asia.

Congratulations to coaches Arif Akhundov and Erkin Yusupov and the entire girls' and boys' teams - Evgeniya, Franny, Emma, Saskia, Jasmin, Kristina, Chloe, Yoolim, Surayyo, Amaia, Maria, Liza, Aylin, Kee Bum, Abdul, Kristian, Otabek, Nazrin, Fazrin, Dae Kwon, Eric, Nikita, Kodir and Mohamed.



---

### Students and Teachers Put On Their Dancing Shoes for a Good Cause

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan** - It was a night of glitzy glamour, feathery extravagance, and surprise performances on Friday, January 11 when Tashkent International School hosted its first ever *Strictly Come Dancing* dance competition to raise money for Project 3580, a student-led charity that helps children in Sierra Leone.

The wildly successful evening featured 16 dancing couples - students and teachers - plus a four-person panel of "celebrity" judges and two sets of quirky, smirk presenters. Overall, more than 50 students, teachers and TIS staff members worked together to make *Strictly Come Dancing* a success.

Many of the performers had been fine-tuning their craft for several weeks during the Friday *Got To Dance* after-school activity

(To be continued on page 9)



# CEESA Newsletter

## CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

*(Continued from page 8, "Students and Teachers Put On Their Dancing Shoes for a Good Cause")*

at TIS where they learned how to swing, waltz and hip hop. Other performers used the competition as an opportunity to highlight their creativity and wild costumes.



Through tickets and refreshment sales, Project 3580 raised more than \$600. The TIS secondary catering council helped by baking homemade desserts, which were sold during intermission.

Project 3580 was started this school year by secondary English teacher Kate Sorrell who participated in a similar project while working in England. The charity supports a United Kingdom-based initiative that partners with two secondary schools in Sierra Leone. In the past, the initiative has helped supply mosquito netting to combat the spread of malaria and assisted one of the schools in setting up a computer lab, which the school can now rent out to community members during non-school hours to generate income.

Future plans for Project 3580: Sorrell will travel to Sierra Leone in February 2013 with the UK initiative to gather more information, volunteer where needed, and bring with her photos, letters and donations from the TIS community.

For more information about Project 3580 and the work the student-led charity group is involved in, contact Kate Sorrell at [kates@tashschool.org](mailto:kates@tashschool.org). authorized to offer all three IB programs.

Angie Cairns Kuschel  
CEESA Rep, Marketing coordinator

## A Community That Lends a Helping Hand



*"Stuff the Bus For Berceni", school wide food drive*

The American International School of Bucharest has a strong and active Service Learning and community service component. The students continuously take action in developing solutions for

real-world problems they have investigated. From the four year-olds in Early Childhood who organized a clothing drive to the high school students who helped build homes for the less fortunate, our students see multiple opportunities to help the community and they willingly do so.

At AISB the spirit of helping others is not exclusive to the students. Parents, staff and teachers are also actively involved. Due to the efforts of one parent and her child, this was the second year in which AISB was able to host the PARADA circus. At the moment the members of the PARADA circus troupe are leading an acrobatics workshop on Saturdays for upper elementary students. The "circus days" were fund raisers for the

foundation, which provides life-skills and education for the street children in Bucharest. This is the third year that a committed group of teachers volunteer once a month to spend part of their Saturday at hospital nursery. At the nursery, they hold, play, sing, talk to, and have fun with these abandoned babies. These teachers also collect money to cover the salary of the nurse who accompanies them each Saturday. Otherwise there would be no nurse on staff.

These are just a few examples of how the American International School of Bucharest is a caring community that is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Marcela Talero-Hester  
CEESA Representative

# CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

## Special Guests at the American International School of Vilnius (AISV):

### “Lietuvos Rytas” Basketball Players Lead PE Classes in December

“Lietuvos Rytas” (a professional basketball club based in Vilnius, Lithuania, playing in the Lithuanian Basketball League, the VTB United League, and the Euro league) basketball team players Dejan Ivanov (# 44), Deividas Dulkys (#4), Predrag Samarzinski (#14), and Nemanja Nedovic (#16) conducted exciting basketball classes to grades 7-10 students. A few boys from Grades 11-12 joined these special classes as well. The students who scored the best in shooting were awarded with “Lietuvos rytas” prizes and souvenirs.



### An Exciting Visit of Ruta Meilutyte, the Olympic Swimming Champion (200m breast stroke), and her coach Jonathan Rudd



Students and teachers had a wonderful experience and a lot of excitement to meet Ms. Ruta Meilutyte, the Olympic swimming champion, and her coach Mr. Jonathan Rudd at AISV in January. Grades 3-12 students had a number of questions to ask Ruta and her coach. A lot of pictures were taken and autographs signed.

Jolita Norkunaite  
CEESA Rep

## Community & Service Initiatives at Pechersk International School

Orson Scott Card said, “Every person is defined by the communities they belong to”. If the idea holds any truth then the members of the PSI community belong to both local and international.

An example was the month of November, which was a busy month at PSI, with many excellent Community & Service initiatives. The whole school Community got

involved with the very busy C&S program.

The staff band (also known as the Victor Zably Social Club) kicked off the month when they played a fundraiser in support of the American Cooperative School of Tunis, which sustained serious damage during the political demonstrations of September. Parents and Staff from PSI came together for a night of music and singing that would help our colleagues in Tunis and their community to get back on their feet. Lead singer and dram teacher Malina Patel commented “As an international school educator, an

event like this makes me reflect not only on how lucky I am to be here at PSI, but also on the type of community that I want to be a part of. PSI has a strong tradition of encouraging and engaging in Community & Service, and if we expect it of our students shouldn't we be pulling up our sleeves and getting dirty too? It's up to us as their teachers and parents to help them to see the difference they are making to the world around them, and to understand how giving of themselves influences them as young global citizens – because they are making a difference!”

*(To be continued on page 11)*

# CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

*(Continued from page 10, Community & Service Initiatives at Pechersk International School)*

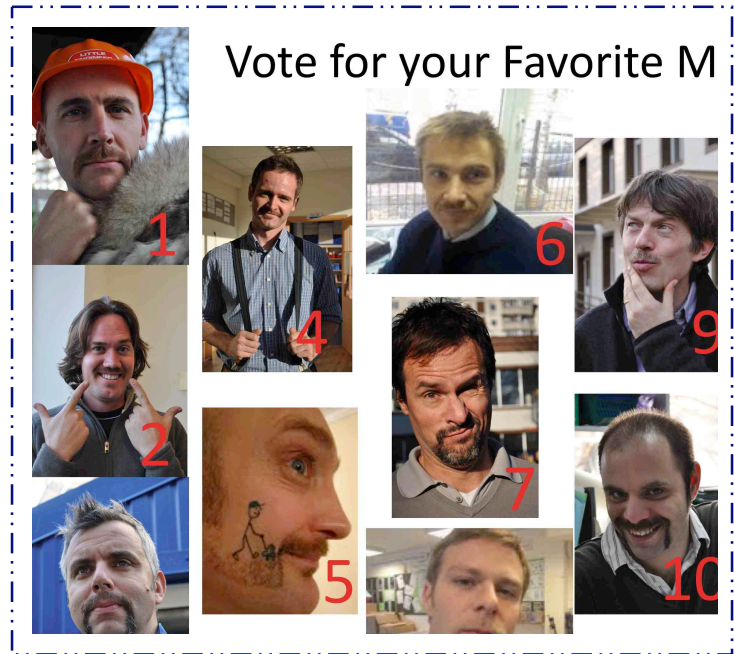
The third annual PSI Miracle Week took place from 12-16 November, organized by the Student Council. Throughout the week activities were organized and donations collected for the Djerela Centre for Intellectual Disabilities and the SOS Animal Shelter.



The activities included Homeroom 'challenges' and a wider community element when the Student Council challenged another international school in the city to see who could

collect the most in donations. Samantha Knox from the student council was quite pleased with their work stating: "I think that Miracle Minute and Miracle Week were both successes. We broke our records and made a difference in the lives of the animals and people of Kiev. The small contributions of everyone really added up". The third annual Miracle Week was so successful that it broke all of the previous records for donations thanks to the generosity of the PSI community.

Finally, the men of PSI played their part through participation in the second PSI 'Movember' competition. Now an international phenomenon, 'Movember' is a movement started by an Australian group at the end of the 1990s, aimed at raising awareness for men's health issues, especially prostate cancer. Men participating in 'Movember' start the month clean-shaved and grow a mustache for the month. This year, a dozen PSI teachers participated from both the Primary and Secondary, and they were joined by a couple of students. As ridiculous many might have looked, or how much they may have been criticized by fellow staff, students or their wives: they did not quit. Throughout their struggle during the month, students discussed the aim of 'Movember' on the school radio, KPSI, and hoped to raise the awareness in school about men's health issue. On the final day of the month, the students were allowed to vote for 'Mr. Movember'. There were many original, creative and just fabulous mustaches.



Our school motto is 'A Place Where We Belong' - it is reassuring to see our PSI members reaching out to both the local, regional and international communities and know that we are part of them.

Marika Farrell  
CEESA Rep , Athletic Director

## International School of Krakow Helps Family in Time of Need

Last year, as reported in this newsletter, in a tragic accident, a plane hit the house of Mr. Ryszard Nowak, a bricklayer living in a suburb of Krakow with a family of twelve. To compound the tragedy, Mr. Nowak's wife had died only a few months before. Mr. Nowak was left without a home, and with a large family to support, including adult children and young grandchildren. The local community was unable to give the Nowak family the assistance it required, though they made a valiant effort to do so. It was through this local community that a teacher, at the International School of Krakow (ISK), Adam Zajdel, became aware of the issue, and soon the school became deeply involved in helping the Nowak family.

*(Continued on page 12)*

# CEESA Newsletter

## CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

*(Continued from page 11, International School of Krakow Helps Family in Time of Need")*

The Brick by Brick project was an initiative the International School of Krakow created in response to the Nowak tragedy. The goal of this initiative was to raise enough money, through fundraisers and school events, to purchase the bricks necessary for the reconstruction of the Nowak house, an amount estimated to be 4000 PLN. Overseeing the project were Zajdel, who is the Physical Education teacher and AC/AD at ISK, and Early Years teacher Susan Oswald. Said Oswald, "It was really interesting to see the looks on the students' faces when we were showing them pictures of Mr. Nowak's home after it had been hit by the airplane, and they learned that his wife died not long before that... so much tragedy... and I think it really made an impact on them."

The International School of Krakow is a small school, but this only means its community is extremely close, and a vital piece of the school's educational experience. ISK's director, Mamie Heard, commented, "It is through enterprises like the Brick by Brick project, and the Szlachetna Paczka (a Christmas care package for the needy initiative) that the International School of Krakow hopes to reach out to the greater community."

The fundraisers organized during Brick by Brick included *Risks by Teachers*, in which teachers volunteered to complete 'risks' in school, such

as dressing as celebrities (like Mr. Lucas as Lady Gaga), or allowing pies to be thrown in their faces.



*Students paid 5 PLN to throw a pie at Ms. Oswald*

Over a series of several weeks, students chose their favorite proposed risks by putting money in a jar. Other events were organized, such as Friday Fun Nights, a Read-a-thon, and more. The Brick by Brick initiative was an unprecedented success. The school raised a grand total of 7,213 PLN, the surplus funds being used to help fund the construction of the Nowak house.

The yearlong enthusiasm and compassion demonstrated by the ISK community culminated in a ceremony involving Mr. Nowak at the end of the school year. Late in the fall, as the construction of the new home neared completion, Mr. Nowak graciously invited ISK to the key

ceremony, at which Mr. Nowak was presented with the key to his new home. Mr. Nowak's friends, family, and many members of the local community attended the ceremony on the Fourth of December. All those who contributed to the construction of the new Nowak family home were also in attendance, including 24 students and teachers from ISK.

During the visit, ISK students toured Mr. Nowak's new home, and were given food and hot cocoa. The house is a spacious 200 sq. m., and Mr. Nowak will live there with twelve other family members. The new home is significantly larger than the original, which was less than half the size. At the time of our visit the walls were bare and wires hung from the ceiling, but Mr. Nowak was able to finish the house he, and has been living there with his family since before Christmas.



*ISK students with Mr. Nowak in front of his new home.*

Brett Elkei, CEESA Rep, and Asha Klein.

# CEESA Newsletter

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

Early Spring 2013

## The First Edition of LUX at the Anglo-American School of Sofia

The first edition of LUX, the literary review at the Anglo-American School of Sofia, has received high honors from the National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Literary Magazines.



The NCTE is based in the US and includes a category for American Schools Abroad. The designation puts the AAS magazine on par with some of the best

student literary publications in the world.

The student editors of LUX are already hard at work on the second edition.

Pamela McCarty, Faculty Advisor

## The Third LTEN meeting at the Anglo-American School of Sofia

On Friday 18th of January the Anglo-American School of Sofia hosted the third LTEN meeting. Over 50 local Bulgarian and international educators came to AAS to exchange ideas, participate in roundtable discussions and some speed-geeking. LTEN is the Learning and Technology Exchange Network, which offers educators an opportunity to meet face to face to exchange ideas and best practices on technology education issues. The network originated with Tom Johnson at the Istanbul International Community School in April of 2012 and aims to expand to include other European and world schools.

We at AAS-Sofia were thrilled to find that we had over 40 local educators interested in attending. It was particularly exciting for our school to connect with the host country teaching community, and we hope the connections made will develop into further meetings and collaborations between teachers, classrooms and students. For this meeting we

wanted to embrace the idea of “collaborate, communicate, create and curate,” and used a wiki to build the agenda by asking attendees to contribute ideas. The result was a diverse and completely user-generated list. To best address the wide range of ideas we organized a bit of speedgeeking and then roundtable discussion groups. Speedgeeking is almost as exciting as speed dating, from where we borrow the process. Attendees have five minutes at each station where the “geek” gets to show attendees the excellent facets of their software, online tool, or pedagogical process. At the end of five minutes attendees move on to another station.

Over the course of an hour, our attendees got a taste of ten new technology tools. Both students and teachers offered ten different speedgeeking sessions on everything from Purplemash to Twitter to Game Design with Construct 2. Having both students and adults act as presenters (geeks) worked out really well. It was particularly enjoyable and to hear the students -- some as young as six years old -- say they helped to run to a conference.



Interest groups ensured that everyone had a chance to participate in conversations specific to their needs they were able to compare and contrast experiences and resources from both local and international educators.

More information about history, values and vision of LTEN can be found on its wiki at: <http://lten.wikispaces.com/home>.

Linda Dimitrov, ICT Manager

---

# CEESA Newsletter

---

CEESA leads educational transformation through collaboration

---

Early Spring 2013

---

## The American International School of Zagreb's Endangered Animal Club



The Endangered Animal Club of AISZ is made up from members from second and third grade. They meet every Friday during lunchtime and discuss what to do about endangered animals. Their most current project was making note cards. The kids drew pictures of endangered animals and wrote about why they are endangered. They had the cards printed and sold them to help animals at risk in Croatia. They sold the cards after school and around their neighborhoods. Thus far, they have raised nearly \$800 USD.

Deane Kvaternik  
CEESA Rep, Athletic Director

---